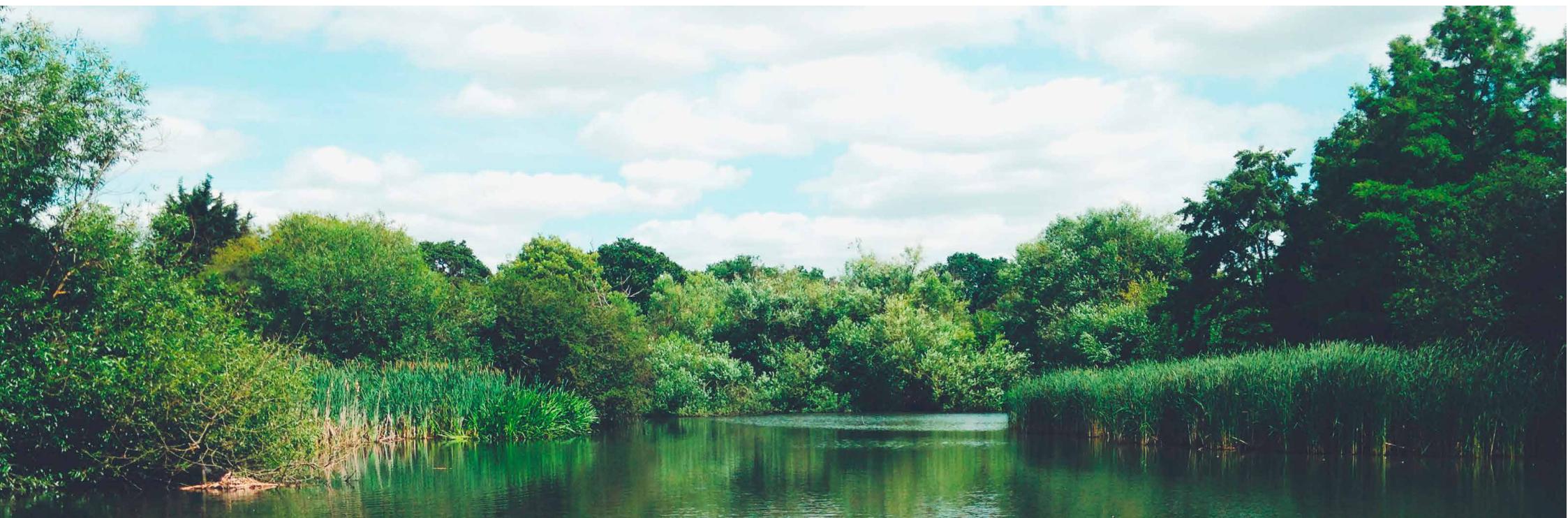


Parks and Open Spaces

Our Strategy for Barnet 2016-26

Appendices to Strategy Document - Appendix A



Appendix A

Policy context

A.1 Strategic planning context

A.1.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF (2012) supersedes a number of planning policy statements and guidance, including PPG17 and its companion guide. It sets out the government's planning policies for England in support of the government's objective to achieve sustainable development. The NPPF also provides a 'framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.'

Considerable emphasis is placed within the NPPF upon the design of the built environment, stressing the importance of 'high quality and inclusive design for all development, including individual buildings, public and private spaces and wider area development schemes'.

The NPPF proposes that in order to deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities, planning policies should 'plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the

sustainability of communities and residential environments.'

Further emphasis is placed upon the delivery of health outcomes with developments required to be 'safe and accessible, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas'.

The framework continues:

'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open spaces, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open spaces, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open spaces, sports and recreational provision is required'.

'Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links

to existing rights of way networks including National Trails'.

'Local Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure'.

Specifically in respect of Green Belt, the NPPF proposes that 'The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.'

This Open Spaces Strategy will discuss all of the strategic planning objectives set out in the NPPF.

A.1.2 The London Plan

The London Plan (2015) is the Mayor's spatial development strategy for London. Barnet is identified within the Plan as an area for intensification where planning decisions should 'seek to optimise residential and non-residential output and densities, provide necessary social

and other infrastructure to sustain growth, and where appropriate, contain a mix of uses'.

Colindale/Burnt Oak is an opportunity area where a minimum 12,500 new homes will be provided through mainly residential-led mixed use development.

Policy 7.18 of the London Plan addresses the need for 'protecting local open spaces and addressing local deficiency'. The policy sets out the requirement for LDFs to: 'ensure that future open space needs are planned for in areas with the potential for substantial change such as opportunity areas, regeneration areas, intensification areas and other local areas' and to 'ensure that open space needs are planned in accordance with green infrastructure strategies to deliver multiple benefits'.

Policy 2.18 focuses on green infrastructure and the need to protect, promote, expand and manage the extent and quality of and access to London's network of green infrastructure.

Green infrastructure is considered as a multifunctional network that will 'secure benefits including, but not limited to: biodiversity; natural and historic landscapes; culture; building a sense of place; the economy; sport; recreation; local food production; mitigating and adapting to climate

change; water management; and the social benefits that promote individual and community health and well-being'.

The London Plan requires London boroughs to develop open spaces strategies to guide the protection, promotion, enhancement and effective management of London's network of open spaces.

The Mayor has published (jointly with CABE) best practice guidance on the preparation of open spaces strategies: 'Open Spaces Strategies: Best Practice Guidance' (2009).

The London Plan also establishes a hierarchy for public open spaces which includes a distance threshold to be used to assess areas of the capital that have deficiency in respect open space provision.

A.1.3 Green infrastructure and open environments: the All London Green Grid

The All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance (2012) identifies deficiencies and opportunities in respect of London's network of green, natural and cultural spaces and provides guidance on future funding and management.

The SPG focuses on 11 Green Grid sub-regions within which the policies and range of projects set out in the guidance can be executed. Areas of

Barnet are covered by the Brent Valley and Barnet Plateau Green Grid area. The SPG identifies 10 specific green infrastructure opportunities for this area of London:

1. To create the River Brent Greenway
2. To develop a framework for the creation of the new 'Brent Valley Regional Park'
3. To improve the ecological and environmental value of water courses in the Brent Valley catchment
4. To enhance the accessibility and use of the Green Belt
5. To develop the Capital Ring as an accessible green corridor
6. To enhance links from the Grand Union canal to nearby open spaces
7. To increase access for walking and cycling to cultural destinations, to the Green Belt, Capital Ring, Brent and Colne Valleys from Harrow on the Hill and Wealdstone centre
8. Increase access to Silk Stream and Edgware open spaces and nature, promote walking and cycling, reduce flood risk, improve water quality and enhance habitat
9. To address issues of fragmentation and deficiency of green infrastructure in eastern Ealing / south-east Brent
10. Increase native tree cover, using street trees to improve air quality, absorb surface water run-off, and provide urban cooling along Edgware Road, in central Brent, at Brentford and across Harrow.

A.2 Barnet's Local Plan

A.2.1 Barnet's Core Strategy

The Barnet Local Plan supersedes Barnet's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (2006). The Core Strategy provides an overarching local policy framework for delivering sustainable development in Barnet through a number of separate documents. The Core Strategy sets out the vision, objectives and related strategic policies.

The Local Plan includes a suite of Development Plan Documents (DPD's) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's)

Part of the vision set out in the Core Strategy is for established and new residents have "easy access to green open spaces" (Core Strategy page 24).

Specifically to 'To enhance and protect our green and natural open spaces' the Core Strategy proposes the priority 'to improve access to, and enhance the quality of the Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land and other open spaces as places for recreation and biodiversity' and 'to create new and enhanced public open spaces to support of Barnet's growing population, including at least 18 ha in Brent Cross – Cricklewood, Colindale and Mill Hill East.'

The Core Strategy includes a place-shaping policy based upon a 'Three Strands' approach:

- 'Protection' - absolute protection for the Green Belt and open spaces
- 'Enhancement' - enhancing and conserving the best of Barnet suburbia and Barnet's 20 town centres' and
- 'Consolidated growth' in areas in need of renewal and investment.

The Core Strategy emphasises the importance of protecting the boroughs parks and open spaces through Policy CS7. This promotes the idea of a greener Barnet through:

- protecting open spaces,
- enhancing open spaces,

- meeting increased demand for access to open spaces and opportunities for physical activity, by tackling deficiencies and under provision through:
- securing additional on-site open space or other open space improvements in the identified growth areas including 8 ha of new provision at Brent Cross – Cricklewood, 5.5 ha of new provision at Mill Hill East and 5 ha at Colindale
- improving access to open spaces particularly in North and East Finchley and other areas of public open space deficiency. We will seek to improve provision in these areas of deficiency with the objective of increasing the area of the borough that has access to district and local parks in accordance with the London Plan criteria
- securing improvements to open spaces including provision for children's play, sports facilities and better access arrangements, where opportunities arise, from all developments that create an additional demand for open spaces. Standards for new provision are set out in DM 15 –Green Belt and Open Spaces.
- maintaining and improving the greening of the environment through the protection

of incidental greenspace, trees, hedgerows and watercourses enabling green corridors to link Barnet's rural, urban fringe and urban green spaces

- protecting existing Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and working with our partners including the London Wildlife Trust to improve protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Barnet
- ensuring that development protects existing site ecology and makes the fullest contributions to enhancing biodiversity, both through on-site measures and by contributing to local bio-diversity improvements; and
- enhancing local food production through the protection of allotments and support for community food growing including the Mayor's Capital Growth Initiative.'

Policy CS11 of the Core Strategy seeks to promote the enhancement of health and wellbeing in Barnet by '... ensuring increased access to Barnet's green spaces and opportunities for higher levels of physical activity ...'

The Local Plan Development Management Policies (DMP) DPD sets out the borough-wide planning policies that implement the Core Strategy and the policy basis for delivering the long-term spatial

vision and strategic place-shaping objectives in Barnet which are set out in the Core Strategy.

The DMP includes a section on play space that suggests that 'less than half of the parks in Barnet have play areas and, only 46% of Barnet residents are within 600m of a formal equipped play area. In the future, the need for play space will increase as Barnet's population is getting younger.' The DMP proposes that 'Improvements to existing facilities are necessary, given the priority for family housing in the borough'.

With regard to open spaces, the DMP proposes that 'where a development is in an area of deficiency for publicly accessible open space new open space should be provided in line with these standards:

- Parks (1.63 hectares per 1,000 residents)
- Children's play (0.09 hectares per 1,000 residents)
- Sports pitches (0.75 hectares per 1,000 residents)
- Natural green spaces (2.05 hectares per 1,000 residents)'

In respect of Green Belt, the DMP proposes that 'appropriate development in Green Belt or MOL includes limited extensions to dwellings, replacement dwellings, development for

agriculture, horticulture, woodland, nature conservation, wildlife and essential facilities for outdoor sport and recreation and uses which complement and improve access to, and which preserve the openness and do not conflict with the objectives of the Green Belt or MOL.'

In parallel with the development of the Core Strategy, Barnet Council has developed Area Action Plans for Mill Hill East and Colindale that set out the frameworks for future development and change in these areas of the borough.

A.2.2 The Barnet Infrastructure Delivery Plan

The Barnet Infrastructure Delivery Plan forms part of the Local Development Framework and responds to demographic change in Barnet up to 2026, setting out the infrastructure required to support this growth and the funding sources that will enable the delivery of this infrastructure.

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan informed the development of the Barnet Surface Water Management Plan (2011) which identifies the neighbourhoods and individual planning units that are at risk of flooding and proposes mitigation measures (aside from simply avoiding all potential development of those areas).

A.2.3 Barnet Open Spaces, Sport and Recreational Needs Assessment

The Barnet Open Space, Sport and Recreational Needs Assessment (2009) was an assessment of current and future requirements in respect of parks, open spaces, sports grounds, play areas and other open space.

The study consisted of:

- An audit of parks and open spaces in the borough
- An assessment of the quality, accessibility and value of parks and open spaces across the borough
- Consultation with residents and stakeholders

This study provided an evidence base for the development of standards for the provision and quality of parks and open spaces across the borough that will deliver the principles set out in the local plan.

This study will also provide a dataset against which the findings of the 2015 survey of parks and open spaces can be benchmarked.

The study developed the following summary of quantity, quality and accessibility standards.

In the context of new developments, the study suggests that 'Policies could therefore require new developments to incorporate proposals to improve open space provision to meet these standards. Barnet may wish to consider on-site or off-site provision of open space, guided by the maps identifying areas of open space deficiency produced as part of this study. Barnet will need to decide upon the threshold of new development to deliver these standards whilst ensuring viable development'.

The study identifies a number of issues:

- The borough has an increasing population
- The distribution of parks across the borough is not even and certain parts of the borough suffer from poor access,
- To meet London Plan standards in terms of accessibility, 4 new district parks and 29 local parks would have to be created
- Large areas of the borough are not currently within walking distance of a LEAP or NEAP playground and a significant increase in the number of new sites with play facilities would be needed to achieve complete coverage
- Barnet has a large number and wide variety of nature conservation sites. The northern areas of the borough are particularly well provided

Table A.1 - Barnet Open Space, Sport and Recreational Needs Assessment 2009: levels of provision

Open spaces typology	Current provision	Quality standard	Additional areas required to meet needs to 2026	Accessibility standard	Quality standard
Parks	1.55 Ha/1,000 HoP	1.63 Ha/1,000 HoP	138 Ha (as 4 district and 29 local parks)	All residents within the Borough should have access to a district park within 1.2km of their home and all residents of the Borough should have access to a local park within 400m of their home	Parks within Barnet should strive to meet the 'good' standard of the Arup quality criteria. These standards reflect the quality required by Green Flag
Children's play	0.05 Ha/ 1,000 children	0.09 Ha/ 1,000 HoP	3.8 Ha (as 35 LEAP's and 24 NEAP's)	All residents within the Borough should be within 240m of a LEAP or 600m of a NEAP	Children's Play provision within the borough should be of adequate quality and provide the range of facilities associated with the size of the facility. Guidelines set out in the NPFA '6 Acre Standard' should be used to assess levels of adequacy in terms of the quality and range of provision
Playing pitches and outdoor sport	0.51 Ha / 1,000 HoP	0.75 Ha / 1,000 HoP	129 Ha	All residents within the borough should be within 1.2km of a playing pitch	Playing pitches within Barnet should strive to meet the 'good' standard of the Arup quality criteria
Natural green space	2.36 Ha / 1,000 HoP	2.05 Ha / 1,000 HoP	48 Ha	All residents within the borough should have access to a Metropolitan or Borough Grade site of Nature Conservation Importance within 1Km of their home and all residents within the borough should have access to a Local Site of Nature Conservation Importance within 500m of their home	Natural Green Space within Barnet should strive to meet the 'good' standard of the Arup quality criteria for parks

for while the more urban parts of the borough have fewer sites (this conclusion is qualified by the fact that cemeteries - several of which have significant nature conservation value - were excluded from the study).

A.3 Barnet's wider policies and strategies

A.3.1 Barnet Corporate Plan 2015-20

Barnet's Corporate Plan sets out a vision for the way in which the council intends to deliver services by 2020. The council intends to re-design service delivery to provide services that are integrated, intuitive and efficient.

The Plan proposes that 'Barnet's parks and green spaces will be amongst the best in London' and that the council will 'develop more innovative ways of maintaining its parks and green spaces, including through greater partnerships with community groups and focus on using parks to achieve wider public health priorities for the borough'

The Plan proposes that 'Barnet's exceptional parks and open spaces will be well used for leisure, enjoyment and sport. Over 75% of residents will be satisfied with Barnet's parks and open spaces.'

The Plan suggests that 'Public Health will be integrated as a priority theme across all services'

and that it will be 'central to future regeneration schemes, with the borough's 'built environment' designed to help people keep fit and active.'

A.3.2 Barnet Council Sport and Physical Activity (SPA) Strategy

Barnet Council's Sport and Physical Activity (SPA) Strategy is considering:

- what evidence and measures are required to support public health and well-being in Barnet to inform a new ambition and strategy for sport and physical activity in Barnet
- how all sport and physical activity opportunities could be extended far beyond leisure centres in Barnet
- how to deliver improved opportunities for traditional sport and physical activity services in Barnet
- working across the council and with partners to achieve positive outcomes for all residents

The objective of the strategy is to secure:

- improved levels of physical activity across Barnet for all communities
- improved health outcomes and general well-being

- improved opportunities to access sport and physical activities for all ages, abilities and disabilities
- improved joined-up working with partners including schools, local businesses, major employers, community organisations and commercial and amateur sports clubs to ensure availability of a broad range of sports and physical activities to give residents the greatest opportunity to get fit and healthy
- better intelligence to identify needs, supply and demand for sport and physical activity provision
- identify barriers to participation.
- consultation carried out in respect of the SPA revealed that parks and green spaces are used as a location for over 50% of exercise activities in the borough.

A.3.3 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-20

The Joint Strategic Needs assessment (2011) identified marked differences in health and wellbeing outcomes between places and different demographic groups within Barnet. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy aims to 'align and combine the council's efforts on a focused list of priorities where we can have the

largest impact to reduce health inequalities'. The strategy focuses on six key priorities:

Continuing the emphasis on prevention and early intervention including secondary prevention (slowing the progression of disease)

- making health and wellbeing a personal agenda as well as increasing individual responsibility and building resilience
- joining up services so residents have a better experience
- developing greater community capacity; increasing community responsibility and opportunities for residents to design services with health service providers
- strengthening partnerships to effect change and improvement
- emphasising working holistically to reduce health inequalities

This strategy is currently at consultation stage.

A.3.4 Entrepreneurial Barnet

The Entrepreneurial Barnet Strategy (2015-20) considers way in which the success of the Barnet economy can be supported by concerted action by the council and its partners. This involves 'stewardship of place'; 'The council is responsible for maintaining much of the built and natural

environment in the borough including many aspects of our town centres and so has a big influence on whether Barnet is a pleasant place for businesses and their staff to locate and an efficient place to move around. The strategy proposes that 'The economic success of an area is associated with its attractiveness as a place to work and invest, but also whether it's a good place to live and to visit.'

A.3.5 London Borough of Barnet Playing Pitch Strategy

The London Borough of Barnet has commissioned a playing pitch strategy conforming to Sport England guidelines. The strategy will assess current levels of supply and demand for playing pitches across the borough and will include an action plan for the future provision and management of outdoor playing pitches across Barnet.

The Playing Pitch Strategy will be delivered in the Spring of 2016.

A.3.6 Barnet Waste Strategy

The Municipal Recycling and Waste Strategy (2016 to 2030) is currently being developed and will be considered in draft by the council's Environment Committee in January 2016.

A.3.7 Barnet Community Asset Strategy

This strategy sets out the council's strategy for making best use of its land and property portfolio to support community and voluntary sector organisations whilst ensuring that financial and community benefits are maximised for the benefit of residents and to help deliver objectives in the council's Corporate Plan.

Table A.2 - London Open Space Hierarchy Source: London Plan (2015)

Size guideline	Distances from home
At least 2 hectares	300 metres (5 minutes' walk)
20 hectares	2 kilometres
100 hectares	5 kilometres
500 hectares	10 kilometres

A minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

Table A.3 - NPFA Six Acre standard

Source: Fields in Trust: Guidance for Outdoor sport and play (2015)

Facility minimum	Time	Walking distance	Radial distance	Size	Age group	Characteristics
LAP	1 min	100 m	60 m	100 m ²	0-6 years	Small low key games area
LEAP						5 types of equipment + adequate hard surface space for games such as 'chase' and 'tag'.
Local Equipped Area of Play	5 min	400 m	240 m	400 m ²	4-8 years	
NEAP						5 types of equipment + adequate hard surface space for games (at least 465 m ² , the minimum area for five a side football).
Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play	15 min	1,000 m	600 m	1,000 m ²	Older children	

The strategy is currently in its consultation phase and will be considered for adoption in the summer of 2016.

A.4 Benchmarks and standards

The Open Spaces Strategy will be informed by national, regional and local standards in respect of the provision of parks and open spaces.

A.4.1 London Open Space Hierarchy

The London Plan (2015) establishes a hierarchy for open space provision across the borough,

establishing a typology for open space and standards in respect of accessibility.

A.4.2 English Nature - Accessible Green (ANGSt)

The ANGSt standard proposes minimum standards for access to natural greenspace for the whole of the UK.

A.4.3 National Playing Fields Association

The NPFA's Six Acre Standard is the principal point of reference for play provision and sets minimum provision of 2.4 hectares of outdoor playing space per 1,000 head of population, made up of:

- 1.2ha for pitch playing spaces (e.g. football, cricket etc.)
- 0.43ha for non-pitch playing spaces (including tennis, athletics etc.)
- 0.8ha for children's playing spaces

The NPFA standard for children's play is set out in Table A.3.

Table A.4 - London Open Space Hierarchy

Source: London Plan (2015)

Open space categorisation	Size guideline	Distance from home	Equivalent Barnet open spaces
Regional Parks Large areas, corridors or networks of open space, the majority of which will be publicly accessible and provide a range of facilities and features offering recreational, ecological, landscape, cultural or green infrastructure benefits. Offer a combination of facilities and features that are unique within London, are readily accessible by public transport and are managed to meet best practice quality standards.	400 Ha	3.2 to 8 km	None of this scale
Metropolitan Parks Large areas of open space that provide a similar range of benefits to Regional Parks and offer a combination of facilities at a sub-regional level, are readily accessible by public transport and are managed to meet best practice quality standards.	60Ha	3.2 km	None of this scale
District Parks Large areas of open space that provide a landscape setting with a variety of natural features providing a wide range of activities, including outdoor sports facilities and playing fields, children's play for different age groups and informal recreation pursuits.	20 Ha	1.2 km	Oak Hill Park, Hampstead Heath Extension, Sunny Hill Park, Copthall
Local Parks and Open Spaces Providing for court games, children's play, sitting out areas and nature conservation areas.	2 Ha	400 m	Edgwarebury Park, Hendon Park, Golders Hill Park, Friary Park
Small Open Spaces Gardens, sitting out areas, children's play spaces or other areas of a specialist nature, including nature conservation areas.	Under 2 Ha	Less than 400 m	Princes Park, Ravenscroft Gardens, Malcolm Park, Brunswick Woods
Pocket Parks Small areas of open space that provide natural surfaces and shaded areas for informal play and passive recreation that sometimes have seating and play equipment.	Under 0.4 Ha	Less than 400 m	Deacons Green, Jubilee Gardens, Elm Park, Church Lane Open Space
Linear Open Spaces Open spaces and towpaths alongside the Thames, canals and other waterways; paths, disused railways; nature conservation areas; and other routes that provide opportunities for informal recreation. Often characterised by features or attractive areas which are not fully accessible to the public but contribute to the enjoyment of the space.	Variable	Less than 400 m	Brookside Walk, Everleigh Walk, Lime Grove Footpath, Riverside Walk

A.5 Best practice guidance

The development of the Open Spaces Strategy has been informed by a number of best practice guidance documents developed over the past 15 years.

A.5.1 Green Spaces, Better Places – the report of the Urban Greenspaces Taskforce (2002)

The 'Green Spaces Better Places' report was the work of the Urban Greenspaces Taskforce, commissioned by HM Government to consider the role of parks and open spaces in defining the quality of urban life. The report considered the functions performed by parks in creating liveable cities and sustainable communities and the challenges facing the sector in terms of quality and management. The report proposed the central role that good quality parks and open spaces play in the urban renaissance.

A.5.2 CABE Space publications

CABE Space was created in 2003 as a direct consequence of the 'Green Spaces Better Places' report and functioned as a research and best practice development organisation through its 'enabling' and 'design review' programmes. CABE Space produced a number of key publications that are pertinent to the development of this Strategy:

- 'Open Space Strategies – Best Practice and Guidance' (2008 - produced jointly with the Mayor of London). This document set out a standard for the preparation of open space strategies by local authorities
- 'Does Money Grow on Trees' (2005). This guidance set out new approaches to assessing the economic value contributed by parks and open spaces
- 'Making the invisible visible – the true value of parks assets' (2009) focused on providing 'an improved understanding of the current value of park and green space assets as an important first step in better strategic management and in assisting local authorities in using their assets to make a positive difference to communities.'

A.5.3 Green Flag

Since 1996 the 'Green Flag' award has been the national standard for greenspace excellence across the UK. 'Green Flag - raising the standard' (2004) is the manual that provides guidance to local authorities and other land managers on the award criteria and judging process. Although Barnet does not have any 'Green Flag' parks, 'Green Flag' assessment methodologies have been used

in developing quality assessment criteria for Barnet's parks.

A.5.4 'Re-thinking Parks - exploring new business models for parks in the 21st century'

This study by Peter Neal was commissioned by NESTA, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery to consider new funding and governance models for parks in the light of the financial constraints under which local authorities are operating in the austerity economy. The report considered new approaches to management and finance based on examples from across the UK and overseas.

A.5.5 NESTA 'Re-thinking Parks' pilot projects

As part of the Re-thinking Parks project, NESTA has commissioned 11 pilot projects looking at new approaches to the management and funding of parks and open spaces:

- 'Bloomsbury Squared'; a project in the London Borough of Camden to work with local residents and businesses to fund Bloomsbury's squares
- 'Endowing parks for the 21st century'; a project led by the National Trust that is considering how to build endowments for public parks based around health

and ecosystem benefits, public giving and 21st century philanthropy

- ‘Park Hack’ – Hackney; a project to look at income generation in parks through engagement with the digital economy
- ‘Coastal Parks and Gardens Foundation’; a project in Bournemouth to use public giving to support future management of parks in the city
- ‘Everton Park, Liverpool’; a joint venture between the Land Trust and Liverpool City Council to transfer the park to Land Trust management
- ‘Go to the park’, Burnley; a joint venture between Burnley Council and a local social enterprise looking at new ways of generating revenue directly from parks
- ‘My Park’, Scotland; this project is looking at the use of digital technologies to facilitate private giving to local parks
- ‘Eastbrookend Rekindled’; a project to pilot the re-location of public service offers

to parks as a means of generating revenue and diversifying use

- ‘Darlington Re-thinking parks’; Groundwork are working with Darlington Council and others to assess the potential of corporate giving to sustain local parks
- ‘Park work’ Bristol; a project to consider the capacity of parks to provide training into work opportunities for local people living in difficult circumstances while improving overall management and maintenance
- ‘Heeley Park Subscription Society’, Sheffield; a project to attract private giving by offering additional leisure opportunities at Heeley Park over and above the free facilities

These projects are running over 18 months from the summer of 2014.

A.5.6 Third Report of the Natural Capital Committee

The Natural Capital Committee was appointed by government in 2011 with a broad objective that this generation should ‘be the first generation to leave the natural environment in a better state than it inherited’.²

The work of the Committee has been focused on the production of three reports. The first two

reports set out the methodological, measurement and reporting frameworks, the accounting principles and their application to national and corporate accounts, the incorporation of natural capital into project appraisals, and the research agenda. Included within these reports is a proposed methodology for assessing the value of natural assets and releasing this value to sustain these assets over time.

The third report proposes what government will need to do if it is to fulfil its ambitious objective of improving the environment. A principal element of the report is a call for the establishment of a clear plan to enhance natural capital, focussing on those areas with the highest economic benefits.

A.5.7 Design for Play

This guide prepared by Play England in 2008 is intended to inform the creation of outdoor play space to ‘support children’s capacity for adventure and imagination, their fundamental need for exercise and social interaction and their innate sense of fun’.³ It is also aimed at those responsible for the wider public realm, demonstrating that well-used and well-loved places to play will often be integrated within the cohesive design of wider community space.

² NCC Final Advice to government: September 2015

³ Play England: Making Space for Play (2008): page 8

A.6 Other studies

A number of other best-practice documents have also informed the Strategy:

'The State of UK Parks' (HLF; 2014) examines the overall conditions of parks in the UK with a particular focus on parks and open spaces in which the HLF has invested over the past 25 years.

- 'Green Society – policies to improve the UK's urban green spaces' (Policy Exchange; 2014) considers current and future approaches to the funding of parks and open spaces
- 'Cities Alive- re-thinking green infrastructure' (Arup; 2014) considers the importance of ecosystems and proposes green infrastructure-led design for cities
- 'Places to be - green spaces for active citizenship' (Fabian Society; 2015) considers how government and communities can influence the evolution of thinking on the future management of parks and green spaces

For more information please visit: <http://engage.barnet.gov.uk>.

If you would like to request this consultation in an alternative format please e-mail @barnet.gov.uk
or phone 020 8359