



Examination of the Barnet Local Plan

Appendix to Inspectors' letter of 17 August 2023

Summary of Main Modifications requested to the Plan as submitted

Introduction to the Plan (including Figure 1)

1. A Main Modification (MM) is required to Figure 1 to update the Plan to ensure it is effective in setting out the Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) that have been adopted and that are to be prepared in a manner consistent with the Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) published in September 2021.
2. The Plan as submitted would not provide a full 15-year period from the date of adoption. A MM is, therefore, required to provide a firm commitment that the Council will undertake an early review of the Plan with the timetable for the preparation of its replacement, together with any SPDs identified in the Plan and new Area Action Plan Development Plan Documents (DPDs), to be set out within a new LDS (or alternative document of equivalent status) within a year of its adoption.
3. A MM is required to Section 1.3 of the Plan as submitted to refer to the most up-to-date published version of the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework) and its relevant paragraphs where necessary, to ensure consistency with national policy. Similar changes are required elsewhere throughout the supporting text of the Plan and such changes should be included and consolidated within a single MM if otherwise unrelated to those set out in this Appendix.

Vision and Relationship of Local Plan Key Objectives to Policies (including Table 2)

4. Table 2 identifies the most relevant Local Plan policies relative to the key objectives and requires a MM in the interest of the effectiveness of the Plan to ensure that the listed policies are comprehensive and consistent with the subsequent MM to Table 3.
5. A MM is also required to the supporting text to provide the necessary context to the key objective seeking to deliver an environmentally sustainable Borough and resilience to climate change, following the Council declaration of a Climate Emergency. It should also clarify the approach taken to flood risk as supported by evidence.

regional park, which is addressed principally by Policy GSS13; ; paragraph 10.22.1 to highlight that accessibility improvements to the Welsh Harp Reservoir will need appropriate management arrangements to ensure its integrity as an Site of Special Scientific Interest is maintained (with associated changes to paragraph 2.6.2); paragraph 10.22.2 to clarify the roles and status of the current and proposed future SPDs; and add a new paragraph to explain the Council's approach in targeting areas of open space deficiency and clarify the role of Map 7 in that regard.

112. The MM should also include a commitment to immediate preparation of up-to-date evidence relating to park and open space requirements to inform the committed early review of the Plan.

Policy ECC05 - Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land

113. A MM for soundness and general conformity with the London Plan should include the following changes:

- Policy ECC05 (part a, criterion i.): update the references to paragraphs of the Framework.
- Policy ECC05 (part a, criterion ii.): delete, as there is no evidence that development outside the Green Belt affects its openness in the terms of its definition in the Framework, and it conflicts with the Framework's approaches to assessing openness.

114. The listed changes to the policy set out above, will require consequential changes to supporting text in the Plan to be included in the MM to ensure a consistent approach.

Policy ECC06 - Biodiversity

115. A MM for soundness and general conformity with the London Plan should include the following changes:

- Policy ECC06 (part b): revise to clarify that the current and proposed future Green Infrastructure SPDs constitute guidance only.
- Policy ECC06 (part c): amend to make clear that contributions may be sought towards the opportunities of the Green Grid Areas relevant to Barnet in respect of biodiversity.
- Policy ECC06 (part d): replace with wording to confirm that, at a minimum, biodiversity net gain should be provided in accordance with national policy, or legislation once it takes effect; and that compliance with Table 21 is required, unless legislation indicates otherwise.
- Policy ECC06 (part e): replace to make clear that it is encouraged that proposals meet the Urban Greening Factor target scores set out by Policy G5 of the London Plan and provide SUDs schemes that maximise biodiversity benefits.