



London Borough of Barnet,  
2 Bristol Avenue,  
Colindale,  
London NW9 4EW  
9 July 2021  
Our ref: 7396644

Thank you for your request received on 14 June 2021, for the following information:

**Is it possible to answer the following questions please?**

- How many planning officers do you currently employ?
- How many planning officers did you employ in January 2011?
- What is your planning departments current budget?
- What was your planning departments budget in January 2011?
- What work has your authority undertaken in considering the volume of electric vehicle charging points needed in the district in the next decade?
- How many high streets (as defined by the ONS) are in your district?

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## **Response**

I am writing to inform you that we have searched our records and although we hold some of the information requested, some is not held by London Borough of Barnet because Enter the reason why the information requested is not held

We have provided answers to your request below showing where we do not hold the information requested.

- ***How many planning officers do you currently employ?***
- ***How many planning officers did you employ in January 2011?***

Planning officers are provided by Regional Enterprise (Re) who are employed directly with Re. Re provides a managed service on an outputs basis associated with a contract for planning services that commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013. Further information about the contract is available on the council's website here [Regional Enterprise Ltd \(Re\) contract - Barnet Open Data](#)

There are a number of employees in the planning service who have joint employment status with London Borough of Barnet as they are the officers responsible for delivering statutory planning services. Currently there are 15 staff whom are joint employees in the planning department; in effect broadly covering the officers who are team managers, some deputy team managers and other senior officers. This compares with 10 joint employees that were in place at the start of the contract period. While these numbers do not reflect the full extent of the planning

officers working on Barnet-related casework, it matches the impression of the service that the overall size of the staff team has grown to match the growth in activity. Such activity includes both a greater volume of casework within Barnet and also planning support the service delivers to other local authorities.

**- *What is your planning departments current budget?***

**- *What was your planning departments budget in January 2011?***

Financial information about the planning service for 2011 and 2019-20 is available via the council's open data portal:

[Council Budget - Barnet Open Data:](#)

- Page 99 of 2011-12 financial year Council Budget report sets out a combined (Planning and Planning Strategic Services) original estimated service budget of £1.25 million
- Page 67 of 2012-13 financial year Council Budget report sets out a Planning Service 'current estimate' service budget for 2011-12 of £1.35 million

[Council Budget for 2021-22:](#)

- Page 19 of 2021-22 financial year Council Budget report sets out £15.8m of 'Guaranteed Income' and £17.3m RE Management Fee that incorporates the Planning Services budget within the overall RE Contract as a net cost of £1.5m to the council. The budget for the planning service is part of the overall contract cost and the net cost of planning services cannot be specified as it is subject to commercial confidentiality.

**- *What work has your authority undertaken in considering the volume of electric vehicle charging points needed in the district in the next decade?***

Barnet's Long Term Transport Strategy 2020-2041 was adopted by Environment Committee in September 2020. This provided a vision for the future of transport across the borough, including the role played by EVs. The current EV charge point programme looks to provide an ambitious roadmap forward in supporting residents to transitioning to EVs, we currently have close to 200 charge points across the borough. We are continuing to rollout further lamp column charge points based on resident request, more details on the programme and the requests procedure can be found here: [Electric vehicles in Barnet | Barnet Council](#)

**- *How many high streets (as defined by the ONS) are in your district?***

The new London Plan, which is available here [www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/the\\_london\\_plan\\_2021.pdf](http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/the_london_plan_2021.pdf), has a policy SD6 refers to 'Town Centers and High Streets' and Policy SD8 to Town center network and the future potential town center classifications mentioned in Annex 1)., References to both come throughout the plan. However, while Town Centers are mapped, listed and defined in Annex 1, 'High Streets' does not appear to be defined.

The London Plan recognizes that high streets are one of London's most characteristic urban features and that they play an important role in terms of local economic and social infrastructure, providing employment opportunities and promoting community and cultural exchange. Research is currently being undertaken into how adaptive strategies can be developed for high streets, which is intended to be published by the end of this year, and this will include a clear definition for high streets.

As far the number of Town Centers is concerned, as mentioned in Annex 1 of the London Plan, London Borough of Barnet has 1 Regional Centre, soon to be Metropolitan center (Brent Cross), 1 Major Centre (Edgware) and 14 District Town Centers. It also has 15 Local and neighborhood Centers.

The main high streets are listed here

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### **Further information**

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

### **Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing**

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

**For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.**

### **Your rights**

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: [foi@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:foi@barnet.gov.uk). Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)). There is no charge for making an appeal.