

9 September 2021
Our ref: 7590092

Thank you for your request received on 23 August 2021, for the following information:

I am undertaking a research project titled: 'Planning for net zero - what role does spatial planning play in the delivery of sustainable development with respect to net zero.'

To support this research I would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information;

- 1. Have you declared a climate emergency? Y/N**
- 2. a. Do you have an action plan or strategy (or equivalent) related to net zero goals? Y/N**
b. If yes, is 'Spatial Planning' featured within the action plan/strategy? Y/N
- 3. a. Does your 'Local Plan' reflect net zero targets? Y/N**
b. if yes to what year?
c. If no, does your 'Local Plan Review' plan to include net zero? Y/N
- 4. a. Do you have an in-house sustainability (or equivalent) officer/s supporting local planning policy, if yes, the number of officers?**
b. Who is the key contact at your council?
- 5. a. What tools do your planners use to support climate planning policy and delivery in your authority?**
b. Do your planning officers receive climate literacy training or equivalent? Y/N
c. Do you use climate change mitigation as a material consideration in balancing planning applications? Y/N

We have processed this request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

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 several questions relate to work which is underway and not published. Link to Draft Local Plan Reg 19 provided below.

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

Have you declared a climate emergency?

The Council recently passed a resolution noting that the same environmental challenges that are faced by the UK are also faced in Barnet, and that Barnet's commitment to remain a green and pleasant borough goes hand-in-hand with the Council's commitment to fighting climate change and pollution. The Council believes that taking action on climate change is more important than statements. Barnet has significantly invested in tree planting and parks and open spaces, adopted a Long Term Transport Strategy focused on developing active travel options, and introduced over 100 electric vehicle charge points, to improve air quality. The redevelopment of Brent Cross will see the creation of a carbon neutral park town by 2030 at the latest

2. a. Do you have an action plan or strategy (or equivalent) related to net zero goals? Y

We are currently reviewing the actions of the Council, and will soon be bringing forward a draft of the boroughs' first Sustainability Strategy. This will set out what we are already doing, and propose new actions and objectives which will enable us to meet the ambitious targets of the government, as well as detailing how we can empower residents, businesses, and partners to similarly make meaningful changes.

b. If yes, is 'Spatial Planning' featured within the action plan/strategy?

We will be bringing forward a full list of actions with the draft Sustainability Strategy once it goes to Policy and Resources Committee

3. a. Does your 'Local Plan' reflect net zero targets?

The Local Plan was adopted in 2012 and does not reflect zero targets. However the draft Local Plan (Reg 19) - June 2021 does.

<https://engage.barnet.gov.uk/local-plan-reg-19>

b. if yes to what year?

London has a strategic objective of becoming a zero-carbon city by 2050.

c. If no, does your 'Local Plan Review' plan to include net zero? Y/N

N/A

4. a. Do you have an in-house sustainability (or equivalent) officer/s supporting local planning policy, if yes, the number of officers?

No

b. Who is the key contact at your council?

Robert Poole.

5. a. What tools do your planners use to support climate planning policy and delivery in your authority?

Energy Reports are required with major applications.

b. Do your planning officers receive climate literacy training or equivalent? Y

We are supporters of Urban Design London. Planners can access their training programmes which include many aspects of climate change.

c. Do you use climate change mitigation as a material consideration in balancing planning applications?

This largely depends on the issue relating to climate change requiring mitigation.

Please provide details of information not held:

Several questions relate to work which is underway and not published. Link to Draft Local Plan Reg 19 provided above.

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

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. 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). There is no charge for making an appeal.