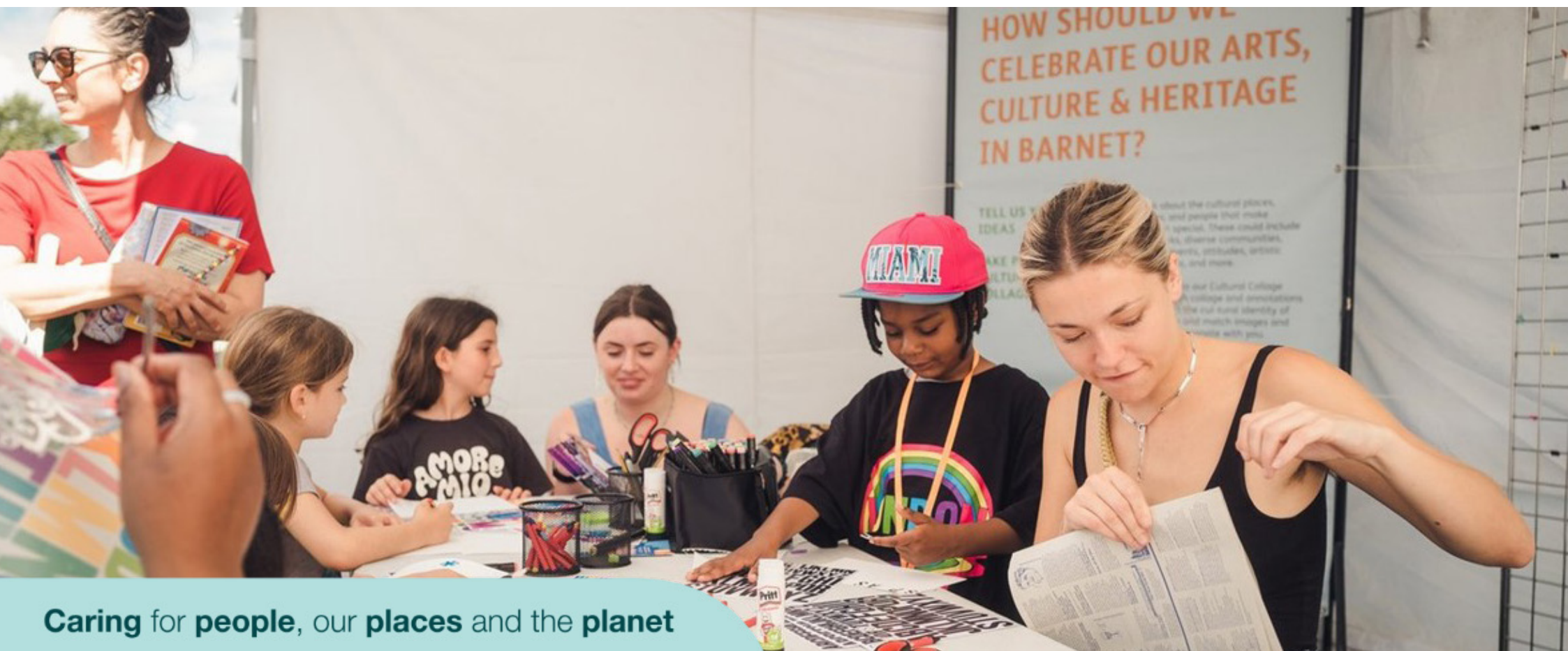


London Borough of Barnet

Social Investment Impact Report

2024 / 2025



Caring for people, our places and the planet

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Glossary

Anchor Institution

A large, locally based organisation - such as a council, NHS trust, university or housing association - with strong ties to a place.

Co-design / Co-production

An approach where services, policies or programmes are designed and delivered with the people who use them - not just for them.

Community Participation

The active involvement of residents and local groups in shaping decisions, policies or services that affect their lives and neighbourhoods.

Community Wealth Building

An approach to economic development that focuses on keeping wealth within local communities - for example by supporting local businesses, fair employment, and socially responsible procurement.

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

Courses that help people improve their English language skills - often used to support migrants and refugees access work, education, and intergrate with the community.

Outcome

The result or impact of an activity, project or service - for example, someone gaining a qualification or feeling less isolated.

Responsible Procurement

A way of buying goods and services that considers not just cost and quality, but also ethical, environmental and social factors - such as fair wages, local jobs or low carbon impact.

Section 106 (S106)

A legal agreement between a council and a developer, requiring the developer to provide benefits to the local community (such as affordable housing, green spaces, or jobs for local people) as part of planning permission.

Social Investment

The intentional allocation of money, time, or resources to deliver positive and lasting outcomes for communities.

Social Value

The wider benefit to the community that can be delivered through a contract, project or development - such as employment opportunities, environmental improvements, or in-kind support for voluntary sector organisations.

Supply Chain

The network of organisations involved in providing goods, services or works for a project. Councils can influence their supply chains to deliver social value through ethical sourcing and local employment.

Sustainability

Protecting and improving the environment by reducing pollution, minimising waste, conserving natural resources, and supporting biodiversity.

VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise)

An umbrella term for charities, community groups, faith groups, and social enterprises that operate for social good rather than profit.

Foreword

Welcome to Barnet Council's second Social Investment Impact Report. To us, social investment is using money, time, and other resources strategically to support projects and activities that deliver lasting, positive benefits for our communities.

This report sets out some of our key achievements over the past year, from **April 2024 to March 2025**, and offers an opportunity for reflection as we continue our journey towards making Barnet an even better place to live and work, in line with Our Plan for Barnet 2023–2026.

Over the past year, the Council has worked closely with residents, businesses, and community groups to deliver outcomes that matter most, such as helping people into work, supporting local businesses to thrive, and investing in projects that empower and bring communities together.

Through our Employment and Skills Programme, the Council has helped **over 1,900 residents to find employment**, bringing nearly **£46 million in wages into Barnet households**. These are not just numbers – they represent people gaining meaningful jobs, earning a living, and being able to support themselves and their families.

Our **suppliers have contributed £708,029** in social value to Barnet. This includes donations to local community groups, the creation of jobs and apprenticeships, volunteering days, school workshops, and much more. Barnet Council is committed to ensuring that every pound we spend on goods, services, and works also brings wider benefits to our communities.

We have **supported over 600 local businesses** with advice, training, and access to funding opportunities, helping them to grow, adopt greener practices, and create new jobs for local people.

We are committed to ensuring that local businesses can access opportunities through our supply chain, with Barnet-based construction firms who are part of the Barnet Construction Supply Chain Programme **securing over £9 million in contracts** this year.

We are also continuing to take action on climate change. This year, we **installed 833 electric vehicle charging points**, delivering over 3.6 million kWh of clean energy, which is enough to **fully charge 90,000 cars at least once**.

We **planted 925 street trees**, which will help absorb carbon dioxide, improve air quality, and reduce the risk of floods. We also **retrofitted over 140 homes** to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. These steps are part of our commitment to protect the planet for future generations.

This report highlights just some of the progress we have made, which would not have been possible without the dedication of our suppliers, residents, community partners, developers, and council teams. Thank you all for your efforts.



Cllr Barry Rawlings

Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategic Partnerships, Economy, and Effective Council

Summary of impact

CARING FOR PEOPLE:

1997

residents supported into work (including apprenticeships)



£45.6m

million wages to Barnet households



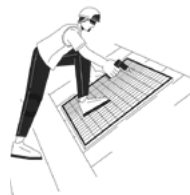
£708,029 social value delivered by our suppliers



Over **600** local businesses supported with training, advice, and access to contracts and funding

CARING FOR THE PLANET:

833 electric vehicle charging points installed



140 homes retrofitted



4 new food growing sites created

925 street trees planted



CARING FOR OUR PLACES:

658 new affordable homes built



£32.2m spent by developers procuring goods, services, and works from Barnet-based businesses

£19.4m spent on improving roads and pavements.



£17.9m collected from developers and reinvested in local infrastructure



ENGAGED AND EFFECTIVE COUNCIL:

2000 adults & **500** young people responded to our Residents' Perception Surveys



£523k funding Barnet Together helped Barnet VCFSEs secure

3 in-person Leader Listens sessions held with Jewish, Muslim and Black communities



Over **7000** residents and stakeholders have participated in community participation initiatives in the last two years

Caring for People

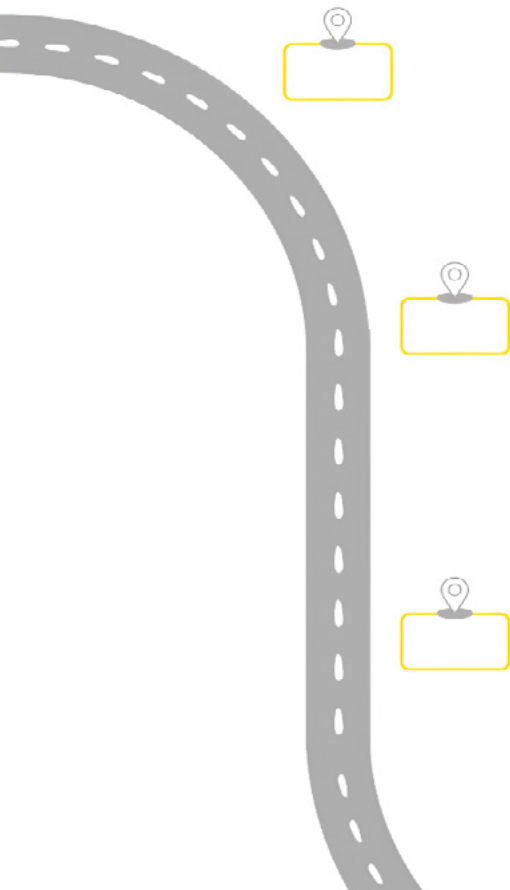
- Our Supply Chain (Procurement)
- Employment and Skills
- Supporting Local Businesses
- Community Events
- Borough of Sanctuary



Our supply chain (procurement)

At Barnet Council, we believe that every pound we spend should bring additional benefits to our residents, businesses, and communities. This is what we mean by **social value** - ensuring that our contracts not only deliver the services, goods, and works we need but also create jobs for residents, help local businesses grow, build our voluntary sector's capacity, and advance our environmental goals.

Our Social Value Journey *(click on the year for details)*



- Our social value journey began with the Social Value Act (2013), requiring all public sector organisations and their suppliers to look beyond the financial cost of a contract to consider how the services they commission and procure can improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of an area.
- In December 2021, we adopted our first Social Value Policy, introducing a 20% weighting in tenders and a list of 83 community initiatives (TOMs) aligned with our corporate priorities. While this was a significant step forward, the absence of a dedicated role and monitoring tools led to inconsistent delivery, little to no reporting of social value, and unrealised benefits.
- To address this, we created the Social Investment Officer role in 2023 to drive compliance and ensure social value was consistently tracked and enforced. In October 2023, Cabinet members approved seven new elements to further strengthen our policy and framework, making sure suppliers delivered initiatives that were aligned with priorities set out in Our Plan for Barnet.

Where we are now

When we refreshed the policy in October 2023, we made a clear commitment to begin systematically tracking and reporting on the social value delivered by our supply chain. Following approval from members, we began developing the infrastructure needed to monitor and enforce social value consistently across contracts.

Monitoring started in April 2024 – **from zero contracts – and by the end of March 2025, we were tracking 33 contracts, representing 10.6% of all council contracts.** While there is still progress to be made, this marks a solid foundation.

Social value delivered by our supply chain in the borough, in 2024/2025:

• Funding to support community initiatives	£101,159
• Corporate volunteering days	90
• New full-time jobs to Barnet residents paying a London Living Wage or above	12
• New apprenticeships to Barnet residents	3
• Weeks of work experience	2
• Hours spent delivering talks, sessions and workshops in schools	58
• Laptops and computers donated to the voluntary sector and other local businesses	172
• Spend contracting Barnet-based businesses (i.e. caterers, printing, cleaning services, etc)	£31,298
• Apprenticeship Levy donated to support local businesses with their apprenticeships training costs	£20,000
• Tonnes saved in CO2 emissions through de-carbonisation	23.53
• Car miles saved as a result of green transport programmes or equivalent	20,761
• Total social value delivered by our supply chain (including outcomes not listed above)	£708,029

Case studies

In 2024, **over 300 Grahame Park residents**, took part in a co-production exercise to determine the future use of two vacant commercial units on the Concourse. Their choice was a community café and a service hub. While funding was only available to fit out one unit, plans have moved ahead to establish the Concourse Café.

To bridge a £20,000 funding gap for the basic fit-out, Barnet Council and The Barnet Group (TBG) launched a fundraising campaign, reaching out to suppliers across both organisations. **Eight suppliers stepped forward, contributing a combined £23,596.** £13,596 was from Barnet Council's supply chain and £10,000 from TBG's. The additional funds will be used to enhance the space, making it even more welcoming for local people.

This new café will sit at the heart of the estate and will be a safe space for residents to connect, build relationships, and feel part of a thriving community.



In 2024, **Capita pledged to donate £150,000** of their apprenticeship levy to support Barnet-based businesses or those with apprentices from Barnet, covering 100% of apprenticeship training costs. With the help of Workwhile in identifying businesses in need of funding, **Capita has donated £20,000 so far**, with Evolve Electrical Solutions being the sole beneficiary.

This commitment contributes to community development and economic growth, as apprenticeships provide individuals with valuable skills and experience while enabling businesses to build the skilled workforce they need for long-term success.

Marlborough Highways sponsored an owl for £4,581 as part of the North London Hospice's Owl Trail, which raises vital funds for the hospice. Each owl was uniquely designed by local artists, designers, and illustrators, celebrating the vibrancy, culture, and creativity of North London.

The hospice offers end-of-life care and support to residents in Barnet, Enfield, and Haringey, providing essential help during their most challenging times.





Mastek donated 15 recycled laptops to 2second Chance, a charity that provides training and opportunities for people with physical disabilities, learning difficulties or social, emotional and mental health needs. **Mastek also donated 20 laptops to Whitefield School**, which supports young people aged 3-19 years old with a broad range of abilities and special needs.

These donations help both organisations provide better opportunities for learning and growth, promoting digital inclusion and improving access to education in the Borough.

Trees bring countless benefits to our neighbourhoods – from improving air quality and supporting local wildlife to making the borough more resilient to climate change. That is why we have partnered with the charity **Trees for Streets**, giving residents and businesses the chance to sponsor tree planting in their local area.

Capita donated £4,500 through the scheme which went towards planting and maintaining five trees across Barnet.



In April 2024, **Tarmac Kier Joint Venture (TKJV)** participated in the **Great British Spring Clean**, a Keep Britain Tidy campaign. Partnering with Barnet Council's Greenspace team, **eight volunteers from TKJV collected litter from Silk Stream and Montrose Park**.

The clean-up drastically improved the area, supporting the council's efforts to maintain a clean borough.



Medequip Connect are recycling plastic from the digital switch project to create park benches. In September 2024, they donated two benches, valued at £950 including installation fees, to One Stone Grove Community Centre, replacing rotten and broken benches. These new benches now provide comfortable outdoor seating for residents to socialise.

This scheme not only tackles plastic waste, promoting a circular economy, but also helps bring communities together. Medequip plans to donate a total of 19 benches throughout the duration of the contract.



Employment and skills

In 2024/2025, our Employment and Skills Programme helped **1,997 Barnet residents secure jobs**, bringing an estimated **£45.6 million in wages to Barnet households**, while also helping others gain valuable skills and access education and training.

Delivered through BOOST, Barnet Education and Learning Service (BELS), Shaw Trust, and local partners, the programme provides comprehensive support.

BOOST offers employment services alongside assistance for debt, finance, digital connectivity, and wellbeing.

BELS focuses on specialist services for young people, including students, care leavers and those that are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET), while Shaw Trust delivers the Work and Health Programme (WHP).

Additionally, the Employment and Skills Team works with developers to create job and training opportunities through Section 106 agreements.

“

I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for meeting you. I feel like a human again. I am recognised as a human, and have the same rights as anyone else.

Local resident

”

Key achievements in 2024/2025:

1997 people supported into employment (including apprenticeships) which generated an estimated **£45.6 million in wages to Barnet residents.**

1230 jobs through Section 106 agreements

388 jobs through BOOST

180 jobs through Shaw Trust WHP

73 jobs through BELS

126 apprenticeships

1474 residents moved into education or training opportunities.



292 weeks of work placement were provided to residents.



1095 devices, vouchers, or cheap connections provided to residents.



747 residents on digital skills initiatives.



Case studies

Supporting a resident struggling with confidence and a fear of rejection

A Barnet resident approached BOOST with low confidence and a fear of rejection, which had been barriers to securing stable employment. Our Employment Support Team worked closely with them, refreshing and tailoring their CV for specific roles, and focusing on long-term career aspirations.

They were referred to a reputable education agency, where we provided job search support, interview preparation, and confidence-building for both face-to-face and virtual meetings. Thanks to this tailored support, they successfully secured a job, expressing their gratitude:

“I have to say thanks to you, because I got a job from the agency you referred me to.”

Supporting a single mother who recently arrived in the UK

A single mum and recent arrival from Italy, came to BOOST with low confidence after a two-year career break. With childcare responsibilities and no recent work experience, she struggled to find a flexible job.

BOOST’s Employment Adviser supported her with CV and cover letter writing, confidence-building workshops, and interview coaching. She fully engaged in the process, gaining the skills and belief she needed to succeed.

After three months, **she secured a flexible catering role that fits around her family life.** BOOST also helped her get an Oyster card to make commuting easier in her new job.

Supporting a resident after release from prison

Just two days after his release from prison, a Barnet resident walked into Jobs Plus at East Finchley Library with no money, one day’s worth of food, and no knowledge of what help was available. Referred by the Jobcentre, he was humble, open, and determined to turn his life around after serving a short sentence for a driving offence.

BOOST and Jobs Plus quickly assessed his needs and provided emergency support - issuing food bank vouchers, bus directions, and referring him to local food banks. With support from the Household Support Fund, he received a £100 food voucher and £100 Argos voucher to buy cooking equipment. While he awaited his first Universal Credit payment, we ensured his immediate needs were met.

He said: **“thank you, thank you - a thousand thank yous.”**

Next, we began working with him to build a new CV and prepare for job applications. His strong work ethic and willingness to do any kind of work has given us confidence that he will find employment quickly.



Team photo of BOOST



Other notable achievements:

BOOST's Performance

- BOOST had a standout year, achieving its highest-ever number of registrations (766) and job starts (388).
- 51% conversion rate from engaging in the programme to employment.
- Feedback from West London Alliance on BOOST's UK Shared Prosperity Fund project delivery was extremely positive. BOOST overachieved across all targets and underspent, allowing for the reallocation of funds.

Supporting Vulnerable Groups

- We commissioned a charity to deliver ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) training to support refugees and asylum seekers in Barnet, with weekly sessions taking place directly within hotel accommodation.
- Many of the individuals supported have faced significant challenges, such as trauma, poor health, and uncertainty about their futures. At the Holiday Inn in Brent Cross, 27 asylum seekers engaged with the programme. While only a few had permission to work, weekly ESOL sessions led by Barnet and Southgate College provided a vital first step toward building confidence, improving knowledge of the English language, and helping people begin to rebuild their lives.

Digital Inclusion

- BOOST worked with **Digital Unite** and **London Councils** to develop [Inspire](#), a training course designed to raise awareness of digital inclusion among local authority staff. The course takes less than 30 minutes to complete and serves as a useful tool to help staff support digitally excluded residents.

Get involved:

If you are looking for support in finding a job or would like to get involved in training to improve your skills, get in touch with our employment and skills team:



Supporting local businesses

In 2024/25, Barnet Council **supported more than 600 local businesses** through training, mentoring, expert advice, events, and access to funding and contracts. With the help of UK Shared Prosperity Fund investment, we exceeded the target of supporting 500 businesses, and **over 200 residents took part in our entrepreneurship training**, which helped them explore their business ambitions.



50 businesses in North Finchley supported with carbon audits, action plans, and small grants to reduce emissions and lower energy costs.

150 businesses in Cricklewood, Colindale, Golders Green and Chipping Barnet improved their digital skills and grew their online presence.

100 voluntary and community organisations were trained in fundraising and impact reporting to help them build stronger operations.

35 artists and cultural groups received business mentoring to help them manage their finances and plan for growth.

50 local suppliers were supported through the Barnet Construction Supply Chain Project, leading to **over £9 million** in contracts awarded to local firms by our suppliers and developers.

Meet the Buyer event at the Edgware Skills Centre was attended by 35 small businesses and 6 buyers. The event led to **33 tender enquiries**.



74 people attended the fifth Barnet Business Breakfast, where we explored the benefits of local businesses working in partnership with community groups. Speakers shared how their work with local charities has delivered value not only to the community groups they support, but also to their business and their staff.

Launched the **Discover Barnet Business Communications Toolkit**, a free resource to help businesses improve their visibility in-store and online. 137 copies have been distributed so far.



Case study

When My Caffè, a local café, joined the **North Finchley Sustainable Programme**, it became clear their ageing freezers were driving up energy costs and leading to food waste.

They applied for and received **£3,000** to replace two old freezers, adding £669 themselves. The change has:

- Reduced energy use by **470 watts**
- Cut electricity bills by **£328 a year**
- Lowered annual carbon emissions by **431kg**

They can now buy and store food more efficiently, reducing deliveries and transport emissions. The team also reorganised the kitchen to improve recycling and reduce waste. Encouraged by these changes, they went on to install a new double-glazed shopfront to improve insulation, lower heating bills, and create a more comfortable space for customers.

"Sustainability and the environment are issues that we've been aware of but have never acted on. This programme has given us the support needed to start making changes and shows what can be done."



Owner of My Caffè

Get involved:

As highlighted earlier in the report (page 8), our supplier **Capita pledged £150,000 of their apprenticeship levy** to cover training costs for businesses in Barnet or those with apprentices from the borough, helping to expand opportunities for employers and apprentices alike. So far, **£20,000** has been donated, facilitated through WorkWhile.

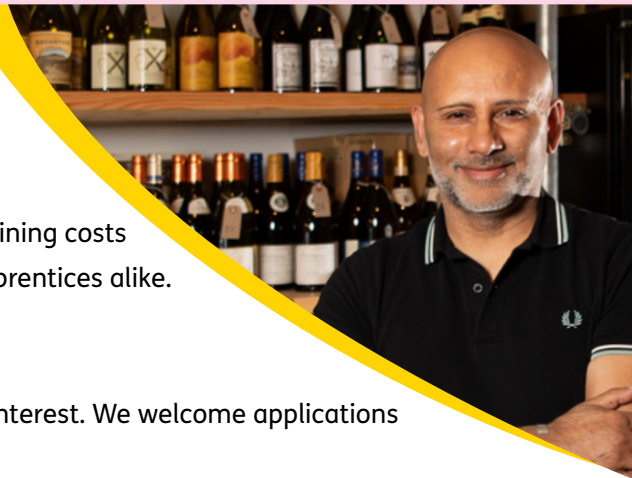
If you would like support with covering apprenticeship costs, click on the button on the right or links below to register your interest. We welcome applications from employers from any sector, though applications are especially welcomed from the voluntary and community sector.

To apply your business must:

- be registered and trading in the London Borough of Barnet or an employer supporting a resident of Barnet.
- as a fair pay employer, pay the [London Living Wage](#)

If you want to know more about our eligibility criteria or the scheme, please get in touch through [Workwhile](#) or by emailing jack.shaw@ippr.org

If you would like support to **start your business**, want to stay up to date with the **latest news and opportunities in Barnet**, or are interested in meeting some of the people behind our local businesses and **supporting your local high street**, simply click one of the links on the right.



Community events

Investing in community events is important to Barnet Council, as it brings people together, strengthens community connections, and helps celebrate Barnet's rich diversity. In 2024/25, the council organised seven events and co-delivered another five with local partners. We also funded **43 community-led events**, ensuring a vibrant and inclusive calendar that reflected the many cultures and communities across the borough.



**Barnet Pride
June 2024**

To celebrate Pride Month, Barnet Council held a community event in June at Stephens House and Gardens in Finchley.

Pride Month is all about bringing people together in love, friendship and acceptance, while also recognising how far LGBTQ+ rights have come and the work still to be done.

Over 80 people came along to enjoy the event. Speakers shared personal stories about their experiences with sexuality and gender expression, helping to raise awareness and building understanding.



**Windrush Day
June 2024**

In June, Barnet Council joined with the Barnet African Caribbean Association and Middlesex University to host a family-friendly event at Barnet Multicultural Centre.

The event honoured the legacy of the Windrush generation and included guest speakers, personal stories, music and food.

About 50 people attended and took part in celebrating the contribution of the Windrush generation to British society.



**South Asian Heritage Month
July to August 2024**

South Asian Heritage Month runs from 18 July to 17 August each year and celebrates the culture, history and identity of South Asian communities. The Council organised a free event on in August at Barnet Multicultural Community Centre, with the theme 'Free To Be Me'.

The event gave residents a chance to explore South Asian culture through music, dancing, and traditional arts.

It was well attended, with 147 people coming along to enjoy the day.



**Black History Month
October 2024**

Black History Month started with an event at the Visitor Pavilion in Brent Cross Town, where around 70 people came together to celebrate. The evening featured a poetry reading by Cllr Edith David, spoken word performances by MyselfBlaize and Yehoshua Francis, a performance by the Young Saints choir, and a steel drum solo.

Throughout the rest of October, a number of other events took place based on the theme 'Reclaiming Narratives'. These included memoir readings on the migrant experience, Windrush film screenings, talks on the history of the steelpan and Black pilots in the RAF, and a visit from Levi Roots.



Diwali Afternoon Tea November 2024

To celebrate Diwali, the Council hosted an afternoon tea event co-produced with members of the Diwali Planning Group. Guests enjoyed masala tea and a Diwali-themed music playlist.

Diwali, the festival of lights, is an important occasion for many across the borough, symbolising the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

Around 48 people came to the celebration.

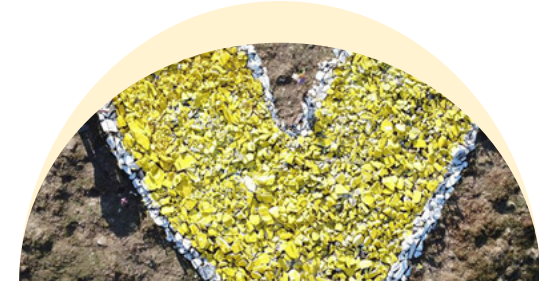


InspirationALL Awards, IWD March 2025

To celebrate International Women's Day, Barnet Council held the second InspirationALL Awards to recognise women and girls making a positive difference in their communities.

The awards ceremony took place on in March at Hendon Town Hall and was attended by around 60 people.

Awards were given across five categories: Community and Culture, Business and Construction, Sport and Wellbeing, Environment and Sustainability, and Inspiring Young Woman. Hundreds of residents and local groups sent in nominations, making it a truly community-led celebration.



Covid-19 Day of Reflection March 2025

March marked five years since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Council held a Day of Reflection to remember those who lost their lives and to recognise the efforts of all who supported others through those difficult times – including key workers, carers, volunteers and health staff.

The Mayor opened the event, followed by speeches from Cllr Caroline Stock, who was Mayor during the pandemic, and Cllr Alison Moore, who leads on health and wellbeing.

Janet Matthewson from Young Barnet Foundation also spoke, along with local faith leaders Rev'd Dr Julie Gittoes and Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg. Around 40 people attended the event.

Get involved - want to host an event in Barnet?

The events grant fund has become a key element of the council's community investment. It supports community groups who want to organise events that:

- promote community cohesion
- celebrate a cultural occasion or event
- celebrate a faith or religious event

Community organisations can apply for a grant between **£500 - £1,000** to host an event.

Borough of Sanctuary

Barnet is proud to have been **accredited as a Borough of Sanctuary** in 2024. This recognition reflects our long-standing commitment to welcoming and supporting those seeking sanctuary, and our determination to make the borough a place where everyone feels safe, valued and included.

Working closely with partners such as **New Citizens Gateway** and **Persian Advice Bureau**, the Council's Sanctuary Team – funded by the Home Office – has continued to support refugees and asylum seekers across the borough. This includes help with housing, finding employment, accessing healthcare, mental health support, and getting involved in community activities. The team also oversees national resettlement programmes for people arriving from **Ukraine, Afghanistan and Hong Kong**, making sure they can access language classes, financial support, and other key services to help them settle into life in Barnet.

Our aim is to build a truly welcoming borough where people who have come to Barnet in search of safety and a new start have the tools and opportunities they need to thrive, and where diversity is respected and everyone can feel part of the community.

Key achievements in 2024/2025:

Received formal recognition as a Borough of Sanctuary, strengthening work with local partners to improve housing, education and health outcomes for people seeking sanctuary.



49 Ukrainian refugees supported into employment through BOOST



50 Ukrainian households helped to secure private rented accommodation using funding from the London Housing Fund.



34 Afghan families (173 individuals) helped to find permanent homes through the Afghan Resettlement Programme.



Over **900** asylum seekers enabled to take part in physical activities such as football, cricket, rugby, women-only sessions and holiday sports programmes.



Delivered targeted health and wellbeing projects in asylum seeker hotels, including under-5s vaccine clinics, Cook and Eat sessions, and suicide prevention training for staff.



Provided **74** English language sessions and Conversation Café meet-ups to **236 Hong Kong BN(O)** residents, with all participants reporting increased confidence in using English and accessing local services.

Organised a festive gift-giving scheme reaching around **1500** asylum seekers living in hotels over the Christmas period.



Supported **116** local residents who continued to open their homes to **163 Ukrainian guests** through the Homes for Ukraine scheme.



Case study

Chiu's journey to confidence and belonging

Chiu previously worked in a professional role in the commercial sector in Hong Kong and believed she had a good grasp of English. However, when she moved to the UK, she found it difficult to adapt to a new culture and unfamiliar systems — particularly when it came to navigating the healthcare system.

Chiu began attending the Conversation Café, where small group discussions were centred around every day, practical topics such as registering with a GP, grocery shopping, managing utility bills, and arranging home repairs. The tutor and volunteers made sure the sessions reflected the students' interests and needs — exactly the kind of support Chiu was looking for.

With growing confidence in her English and understanding of local systems, Chiu now works part-time in an elderly care home. She's been able to use her language skills to help residents book GP and hospital appointments and feels more at ease dealing with day-to-day tasks at work. She credits the ESOL classes with improving both her confidence and ability to support others.

Encouraged by her own experience, Chiu introduced her husband to the practical workshops, including sessions on car maintenance and MOT checks. Both found the sessions highly engaging and helpful, offering a chance to ask questions and clarify information they had come across online.

“The ESOL classes and workshops have really improved our confidence in using English in everyday life. We are grateful for the tailored support to help our family better integrate into UK society,” said Chiu.



Conversation cafe above, ESOL classes below



Caring for our Places

- New Developments and Section 106
- Brent Cross Town (BXT)
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL)



New Developments and Section 106

Barnet Council is committed to delivering more high-quality homes across the borough, with a particular focus on increasing the supply of affordable housing. This is key to helping families find stable homes, reduce overcrowding, and cut the housing waiting list, ensuring local people can continue to live and thrive in Barnet.

In 2024/25, we delivered **658 new affordable homes**, and we currently have 16 developments under construction. The overall number of homes completed across the borough will be published later in the year.

Along with bringing new homes, new developments bring new opportunities for local communities. One of the main ways we secure those benefits is through **Section 106 agreements**.

These are legal agreements between the council and developers that help ensure new developments also benefit the wider community. They can include things like creating jobs and apprenticeships for local residents, supporting students, and funding improvements to public spaces, roads, and community services.



Section 106 outcomes in 2024/25:

1230

total job starts



94 new

apprenticeships created



198

people who were **unemployed for less than six months** progressed into employment

48

people who were **unemployed for more than six months** progressed into employment

265

people completed apprenticeships



3068

students visited development sites across the borough



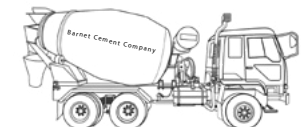
5368

students participated in workshops run by developers



£32,281,990

was spent on procuring goods, services and works from Barnet businesses by developers



Brent Cross Town (BXT)

Our flagship development, **Brent Cross Town (BXT)**, delivered in partnership with **Related Argent**, continues to place social value at the heart of its delivery. We are building a new neighbourhood for people to live, study, and work in, while also supporting the surrounding community to ensure they benefit from the wider Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration programme.

2024/25 at BXT:

762 Barnet residents supported into employment and skills opportunities.

Partnered again with **Women into Construction**, providing training for **16 women**, with **5 gaining employment** immediately after.

Sponsored a Barnet resident on a nine-month paid architecture traineeship through the Build the Way programme.

£22,770 in donations and in-kind support focused on skills and employment.

In partnership with **Galliford Try**, invited **40 Barnet and Southgate College students** to compete in an architecture project. They were tasked with designing a compact and sustainable living space, which contributed to their certification.

Organised **over 90** community events, most of them free and open to all, reaching over **10,000 people**.

Contributed **623** volunteer hours, including:

- Monthly gardening and horticulture sessions at **Mapledown School**
- A one-day sports festival for over 200 local children, hosted with **Sport Inspired**.

Awarded the Brent Cross Town Community Fund 2024 to **five winning local projects**, selected by public vote, supporting employment, training, and education.

Reached a total community fund investment of **£230,000** to date.



BXT also welcomed its **first ever residents**, with **social housing among the first homes** to be completed out of the 6,700 planned.

Local resident and Whitefield Estate steering group member, Eileen Touil, shared with us:

"I love my new home, I think it has been designed very well and feels safe and secure. As we're less than a five-minute walk from our previous home, I love that I can still use the same buses and go to the same shops I always do. I also want to thank the movers who were absolutely brilliant and took great care of all our belongings. I'm looking forward to finishing organising my new home and spending more time here."

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Neighbourhood CIL

The **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)** is a charge the council collects from developers when new developments are constructed. This funding helps deliver the infrastructure needed to support Barnet's growing population - such as improvements to roads and pavements, health services, community facilities, and public spaces. In 2024/25, we collected **£15,026,043** in CIL contributions from developers.

During the same period, we spent **£17,992,000** on local infrastructure projects that benefit communities across the borough. Final confirmed figures will be released later this year.

Key projects funded by CIL in 2024/25:

As part of our commitment to improve roads and pavements in Barnet, we spent **£12.3 million** of CIL funding. This is helping make journeys safer and smoother.



In 2023, we invested £2.3 million to upgrade and expand Barnet's CCTV network. In 2024/25, we spent a further **£227,000** on operational costs to ensure the network remains effective in tackling crime, anti-social behaviour, and fly-tipping. From April 2024 to June 2024, CCTV captured 139 fly-tipping incidents – this was 33 more than the entire previous year.

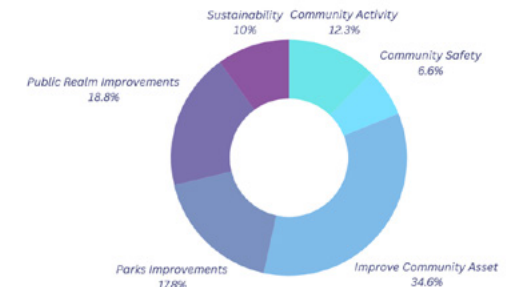
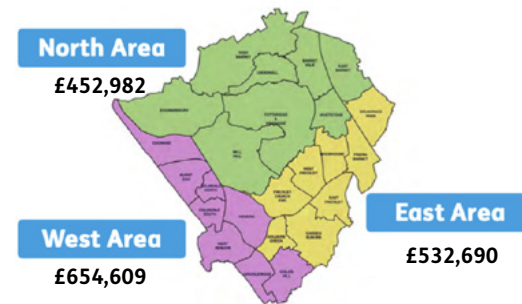
A mobile CCTV patrol car is now active, improving response times across streets and parks. Cllr Sara Conway said: *"Keeping Barnet Safer is a top priority for this council. We really welcome the difference this is making for police partners in combatting crime and for our community safety team who are working hard to ensure public spaces are safer and cleaner for everyone."*

We invested **£2.5 million** in equipment, adaptations, and technology to support independent living in Barnet homes. Items such as grab rails, talking clocks, and bed levers help residents manage mobility, toileting, and sensory needs.



Each year, a portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy is set aside as **Neighbourhood CIL (NCIL)** — a fund councillors can bid on and use to fund infrastructure improvements in their wards. This gives councillors the opportunity to respond directly to the needs of the community and enhance local areas.

In 2024/25, we **allocated £1,640,283 in NCIL funding** across all wards in Barnet.



We awarded **£150,000** in June 2024 to improve the park by installing acoustic fencing along the boundary next to Hendon Way. This will help reduce noise pollution and improve air quality. The funding will also go towards upgrading the park's pathway.

We awarded **£90,000** in July 2024 to restore the lake, helping to improve local biodiversity and support a wildlife corridor between Greater London and Hertfordshire. The project was completed in January 2025.

A total of **£89,796** was awarded across the wards in 2025. This funding supported work in partnership with Greenspaces officers and the Council's biodiversity team to encourage food growing across the borough.

We awarded **£64,303** in September 2024 to update the park gym, to improve access to physical activity for local residents and encourage exercise for people of all ages and abilities.

Caring for the Planet

- Journey to Net Zero
- Greenspaces

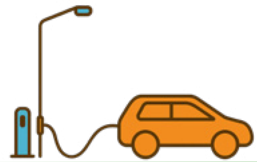


Journey to Net Zero

In May 2022, Barnet Council declared a climate and biodiversity emergency, recognising that urgent action was needed to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. Alongside this, ambitious net zero carbon targets were set for **Barnet to be net zero carbon by 2042, and for the council by 2030.**

Since 2010, **greenhouse gas emissions in Barnet have decreased by 33%.** Our updated [Climate Action Plan](#) sets out the actions we will take to build on this progress and work towards a more sustainable future for all.

Key actions we took in 2024/25:



We installed **833** electric vehicle (EV) charging points, which took us to **over 1,700 EV charge points installed since 2021.**



238 council homes have received energy-saving upgrades to reach EPC-C, through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) over the past two years, with **60% of these improvements taking place in 2024/25.** These upgrades will help residents reduce energy bills and lower carbon emissions.



We launched the **Barnet School Strategy for Sustainability** to help education settings become more environmentally friendly and work together to tackle climate change.



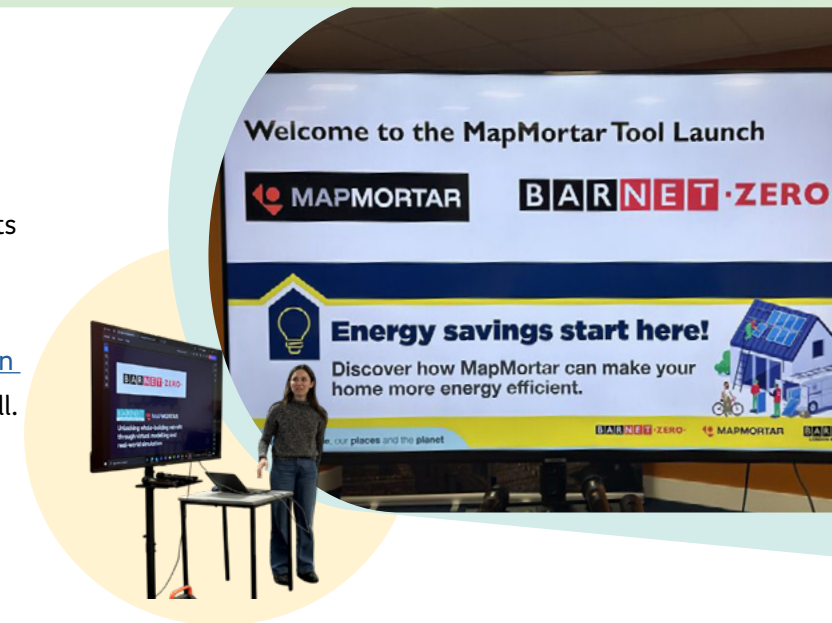
Through the North Finchley Sustainable Programme, we **helped 50** small businesses in North Finchley reduce their environmental impact and operate more sustainably.



The new Edgware Skills Centre opened in 2024. So far, **116** Barnet residents have completed green skills courses, including Insulation and Retrofit Boot Camps.



Working with Bloomberg Associates, we developed **Barnet-specific climate risk maps** to help us identify areas in the borough that are **most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.**



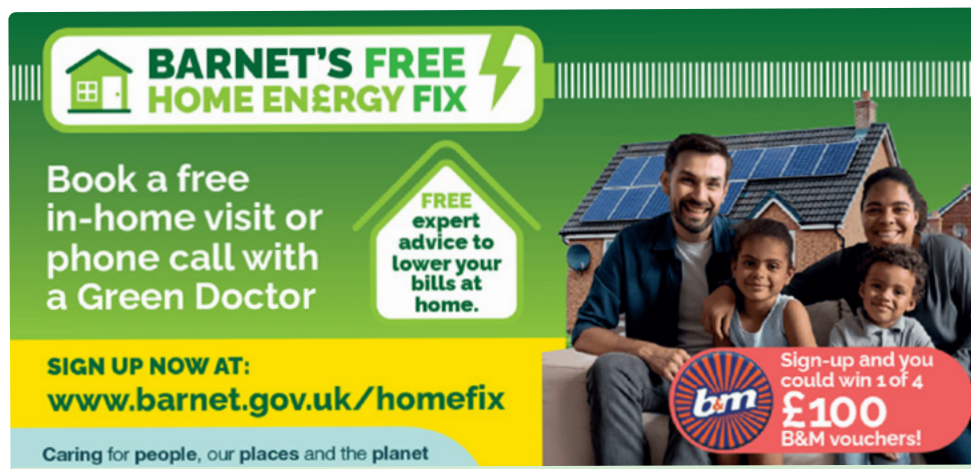
Case studies

Barnet's Free Home Energy Fix

In December, we partnered with Green Doctors to launch Barnet's Free Home Energy Fix, supporting our BarNET Zero campaign. This initiative helped residents reduce their energy bills, and stay warm in their homes. Through this initiative, eligible residents were referred for free expert energy advice. Each household that took part received:

- **A free home energy visit** - tailored in-person or over the phone advice, based on their specific needs.
- **An energy-saving kit** - including items like LED bulbs and draught-proofing materials to keep their home warm.
- **Guidance on energy efficiency** - tips on reducing energy use, switching suppliers, and accessing available grants and support.

This service was offered to households most in need, including those on low incomes, people over 60, families with young children or expecting a baby, and individuals with long-term health conditions. **A total of 548 households received support.**



Get involved:

To sign up to our **BarNET Zero** e-bulletin

To learn more about ways, **big or small**, you can reduce your carbon footprint.

To **view the full Sustainability Impact Report for 2024/2025**

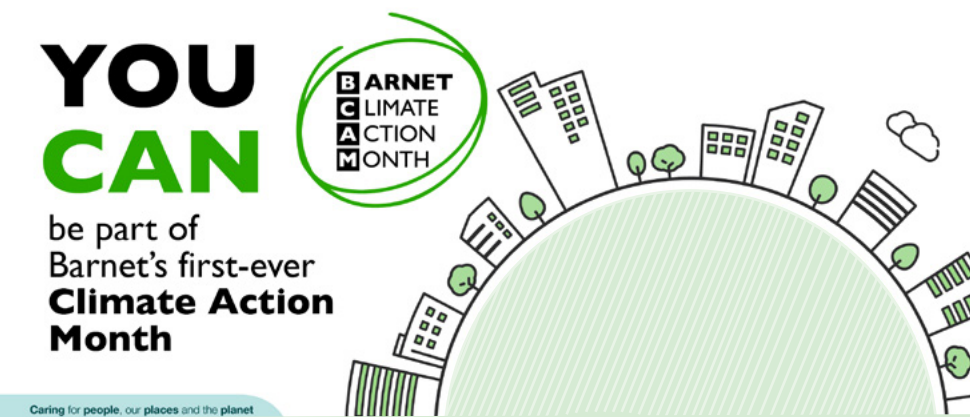
Barnet Climate Action Month (BCAM) 2024

In June, we launched Barnet's first-ever Climate Action Month, bringing together communities, experts, and partners to take meaningful steps towards a greener borough. **Over 700 residents took part in 25 events held across Barnet** - family-friendly workshops to expert-led climate risk sessions with Bloomberg Associates.

This month-long celebration of sustainability was designed to be including, accessible, and community-led, helping people of all ages and backgrounds engage with climate issues in practical, creative, and inspiring ways.

"Everyone was happy to contribute for a good cause...[and] were thrilled to be part of the creation of public art" – BCAM 2024 organiser

BCAM will make a return in June 2025, building on this momentum to further raise awareness and drive lasting change. All activities will be free or low cost, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to get involved and be part of the journey to net zero.



Green Spaces

Investing in green spaces is central to the council's commitment to preserving and enhancing our parks and open areas. These spaces support wildlife, improve air quality, boost biodiversity, and provide essential places for recreation, relaxation, and well-being, playing a vital role in supporting both physical and mental health.

Barnet is proud to be the leafiest borough in London, with 27.1% of the area covered in trees – and we are committed to increasing this further.

Trees bring a wide range of benefits, such as:

A single mature tree absorbs around **22 kilograms of CO2 per year** – the same amount of carbon dioxide produced by a car driving **10,000 miles**.



Trees can lower **temperatures by up to 8°C** during hot weather.



Living near trees can make you **40% more likely to be physically active**, which helps reduce the risk of heart disease and stress.



In 2024/25, we took several steps to grow and protect Barnet's tree coverage:

Planted **925** new street trees.

Created three new Tiny Forests with a total of **1,800** whips (young trees), as well as London's first Tiny Orchard in Hendon.

Maintained **9,967** trees to ensure they remain healthy and safe.

Litter picking

Litter picking continues to be one of Barnet's biggest forms of community participation, and volunteering

residents and business partners play a big part in keeping our public spaces clean. For example, during the Great British Spring Clean week, **28 members of staff from our suppliers**, Marlborough Highways and Kier Group, gave up time in their working day to join community-led litter-picking events across the borough in March.

To support local groups and the hundreds of residents who regularly care for our parks, rivers, woods, and streets, we provide equipment, and, in 2024, the Greenspaces team produced a new safety handbook to help keep volunteers safe.



Community food growing

As well as maintaining and improving our green spaces, the council is dedicated to creating new opportunities for residents to engage with nature. In 2024/25, we launched a one-year pilot project funded by the Public Health Prevention Fund, in partnership with Public Health and Incredible Edible Barnet, to promote community-led food growing.

The project supported residents and community groups to set up and run their own food-growing sites. It trained 30 individuals to lead projects, created four new community gardens, and **saw 54 participants complete the programme**.

New community growing sites:

Montrose Playing Fields

Basing Hill

Church Farm Open Space

Freehold Community Centre

The project has had a significant positive impact on resident's outlook on health and wellbeing.

Engaged and Effective Council



- Community Participation
- Barnet Community Grant Programme



Community participation

The Community Participation Strategy continues to shape how the council engages with residents and communities, strengthening relationships and creating more opportunities for people to get involved in council decisions. It promotes open, inclusive, and collaborative ways of working.

At the heart of the strategy are five principles:

1. We go where people are
2. We learn through doing
3. We listen
4. We are transparent, accessible and open
5. We value Community Power



How our community helped shape our strategies and services in 2024/25:

Informing service strategy

All survey respondents and workshop participants were drawn from our Citizens Panel, which has **1,117 members**.

401 responses to Communications Strategy survey

65 participants to the **Health and Wellbeing Communication** workshop

30 participants to the **Highways, Pavement and Place Communications** workshop

Data Charter had **421** survey responses and **30** workshop participants

Citizens' Assembly on Climate and Biodiversity

40 adults and **20 young people** were recruited to develop recommendations on sustainability

Many more are now involved in action groups and networks to take the ideas forward

Shaping corporate strategy

1421 shared their views regarding the **Culture Strategy**, with also many attending pop up events

16 partners and creative professionals co-produced the strategy.

For **Towards a Fair Barnet Roadmap**, **41** residents took part in listening roundtables, **200** took part in workshops and **57** disabled residents participated in ethnographic research

2000 adults and **500 young people** responded to our bi-annual **Resident's Perception Surveys**. the Citizens Panel

Informing placemaking

In **Grahame Park**, over **300** residents took part in the "**Reimagine the Concourse**" initiative, leading to plans being developed for a new community café and service hub. Also **22** residents applied to join the community funding panel

As part of the **East Barnet Community Assets Research**, we conducted ethnographic interviews with **11** residents and **127** stakeholders, and **47** people joined a community mapping exercise to share insights

Community listening programmes

130 people from marginalised groups took part in **The Leader Listens** sessions

41 residents participated in community roundtables

Around **50** joined **Cohesion Conversations**

Some of the key initiatives and achievements:

Community Listening Programme

Launched in January 2024, the Community Listening Programme builds on The Leader Listens initiative by encouraging dialogue between senior council leaders and specific communities in Barnet. Through roundtable discussions, community representatives, often key influencers from minority groups, lead the agenda and raise relevant issues.

In 2024, three in-person sessions were held with representatives from the Jewish, Muslim, and Black communities. **A total of 41 participants from over 30 organisations engaged** in these strategic, community-led conversations.



Barnet Together Alliance

In 2024, Barnet Together continued supporting the voluntary sector, hosting a conference with 100+ organisations. **The partnership held 32 networking meetings, 34 training sessions, and registered 1,452 new volunteers, 465 of whom became active. Supported organisations secured £523,000 in funding.**

Despite reduced funding, close collaboration maximised impact, leading to a prioritisation workshop in 2025. The alliance aims to support more informal groups like residents' associations and produce a revised memorandum for 2025–26.

Clear Hold Build

The Grahame Park Clear Hold Build initiative aimed to improve safety and community engagement. **Over 300 arrests in the first phase resulted in a safer estate**, building trust and hope for future projects like Reimagine the Concourse.

Rebranded as Love Grahame Park Community, it included a design competition and public vote, engaging young people and residents. The project fostered pride, improved public spaces, and highlighted the importance of community connections and tangible change.



Council commended for leadership on 'Clear, Hold, Build'

Reimagine the Concourse

Over 300 members of the local community participated in a coproduction exercise to decide new uses for two vacant commercial units on the Grahame Park Concourse. They chose a community café and a service hub.

The Concourse Café is funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and a **£23,000 contribution from our suppliers and The Barnet Group's suppliers**. A local Community Interest Company has been selected to operate it.

Love Grahame Park Community Panel

In 2024, Grahame Park launched a pilot project with a £25,000 grant fund, allowing local residents to decide funding allocations. A recruitment process in December attracted 22 applicants for the community funding panel, who will be trained and paid at London Living Wage.

The project's success is driven by sustained engagement, building trust, and increasing community participation in local decision-making, with a positive response showing strong interest in shaping the neighbourhood's future.

Barnet Community Grants Programme

As part of our ambition to be an engaged and effective council, **we are committed to building capacity within Barnet's voluntary sector**. One way we do this is through the Barnet Community Grant Programme, which provides vital support to voluntary and community organisations that serve residents across the borough. The programme offers two types of funding:

- **start-up grants of up to £10,000** for new services or activities
- **one-off grants of up to £5,000** for specific purchases or non-recurring expenses

These grants aim to enable innovation, strengthen community resilience, and improve health and wellbeing outcomes, particularly in areas with lower health indicators. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate sustainability beyond the grant period and show how their projects align with Our Plan for Barnet.

The programme is open to a range of legally constituted organisations, including charities, community interest companies, and social enterprises for projects based in Barnet and benefiting our residents. The fund, **supported by the Edward Harvist Charity**, prioritises initiatives that are community-led, inclusive, and collaborative.

£160,000

awarded

23

projects supported

Examples of projects supported

Homeless Shelter Skills & Wellbeing Project, delivered by **Homeless Action Barnet (HAB)**

Barnet Council awarded HAB £10,000 to deliver the Homeless Shelter Skills and Wellbeing Project. This project aimed to break the cycle of homelessness by delivering structured, skill-building workshops at a local night shelter. Running weekly for six months during the shelter season, the programme offered guests early access to the shelter and the opportunity to take part in three key activities:

- **cooking workshops** to promote healthy eating and support both physical and mental wellbeing
- **practical skills sessions**, including maintaining community spaces, to develop a sense of purpose and contribution
- **life coaching**, to build confidence and motivation, and help guests plan for employment, education, and stable housing

Unified Sound Hub - Empowering Through Music and Community

Barnet Council awarded Barnet Mencap £10,000 to deliver the Unified Sound Hub, an 11-week pilot project supporting adults with learning disabilities and neurodivergent individuals through music. Inspired by Sheffield's "Under the Stars" model and hosted at the Autism Hub, the programme offered hands-on experience in music production, composition and performance.

Run in a safe and inclusive space, the project aimed to build skills, boost confidence, and reduce isolation. Participants shaped the programme, led performances, and recorded their own music - this ensured the programme was reflective of their interests and helped create a sense of community.

The programme delivered three key outcomes:

- 75% of participants developed new creative and technical skills
- Confidence increased through public performance and self-expression
- Social isolation reduced through collaborative music-making

Closing comments

- Six takeaways
- Appendices



Six Takeaways

1. Opportunity to align social investments with other local businesses that are not contracted by the Council

Our suppliers, developers and commissioned services continue to deliver positive outcomes for local people - whether through job opportunities, donated goods, or community initiatives. However, to maximise impact, aligning efforts with anchor institutions and businesses that operate in Barnet - but are not formally contracted by the Council - could help make support for communities more joined-up, consistent and wide-reaching.

2. Better connections between businesses and communities will increase impact

To help businesses provide meaningful support, there must be clearer ways for them to understand local priorities. We are working to improve how we gather needs directly from community groups - through council services, commissioned partners and voluntary sector - so these can be shared with businesses in our supply chain and beyond. At the same time, we aim to develop better ways for businesses to promote what they are offering, making it easier for local organisations to access funding, materials or expert advice when it is made available.

3. Focus social investment efforts on tackling poverty and inequality

To help create a fairer Barnet, it is important to maintain a strong focus on supporting residents facing disadvantage - such as those affected by poverty, unemployment or other systemic barriers. We are ensuring this by conducting equalities assessments for each investment and encouraging partners to be proactive in their support for disadvantaged individuals. This helps in levelling the playing field.

4. Community participation ensures investments lead to better outcomes

An engaged and empowered community helps ensure that council initiatives and investments are more relevant, inclusive and sustainable. Programmes like the Barnet Community Grants and The Leader Listens are not only delivering local impact, but also building trust and stronger relationships. Continued investment in participation and co-design will help communities play a more active role in shaping the change they want to see.

5. Green spaces are more than just parks - they are community assets

Food growing projects, biodiversity corridors, tree planting, and accessible green spaces all contribute to physical and mental wellbeing, reduce isolation, and help address the climate emergency. Continued investment helps ensure these spaces meet the needs of local communities, while creating enjoyable, welcoming environments and supporting Barnet's wider sustainability goals.

6. Explore opportunities to generate income to support our Net Zero plan

Delivering the council's sustainability ambitions will require long-term investment. There is an opportunity to explore practical ways of generating additional income to support this work, such as advertising or sponsorship in public spaces, voluntary contributions from partners, or collaborations with green businesses. Any income raised could help fund projects like tree planting, biodiversity improvements, green skills training, or local environmental grants. Exploring these options would help ease pressure on core budgets and support steady progress towards our Net Zero targets.

Appendices

Caring for people

We calculated wages to households using the Barnet median wage as per the [Office for National Statistics](#). The calculations are as follows:

Median Wage:

- Full-time (35 hrs per week) £38,792
- Part-time (17.5 hrs per week) £19,396
- Apprenticeship £22,500

Total job starts (including apprenticeships): 1997

Section 106 Agreements: 1230 job starts

- *As the data collected does not distinguish between part-time and full-time roles, each role has been calculated at 17.5 hours per week to provide a cautious estimate. Therefore, £19,396 x 1230 =* **£23,857,080 in wages**

BOOST Programme: 388 job starts

- 264 Full-time jobs x £38,792 = **£10,241,088 in wages**
- 124 Part-time jobs x £19,396 = **£2,405,104 in wages**

Shaw Trust WHP: 180 job starts

- *As the data collected does not distinguish between part-time and full-time roles, each role has been calculated at 17.5 hours per week to provide a cautious estimate. Therefore, £19,396 x 180 =* **£3,491,280 in wages**

BELS: 73 job starts

- *All roles are full-time jobs, therefore, £38,792 x 73 =* **£2,831,816 in wages**

Apprenticeships: 126 apprenticeships

- 126 x apprenticeship median wage = **£2,835,000 in wages**

Total wages = £45,661,368

Caring for our places

On 7 March 2025, nearly 300 new homes were handed over at Brent Cross Town, including those in Conductor House and The Delamarre. These homes include affordable housing and shared ownership options, marking an important step in the regeneration of the area.

[Read the full article here](#)

Caring for the planet

For more details about **how much energy is needed to charge electric vehicles**, visit: www.go-electra.com/en/newsroom/kwh-needed-to-charge-ev

A study published by the Evening Standard found that **Barnet has the highest tree coverage of any London borough, with 27.1% of the borough covered by trees**. This places Barnet ahead of Richmond upon Thames (26.5%) and Camden (25.6%).

[Read the full article here](#)

Engaged and effective council

The Metropolitan Police commended Barnet Council for its leadership in the trailblazing Clear, Hold, Build scheme at Grahame Park. This partnership approach has significantly reduced crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

[Read the full article here](#)

