

# Blue and Green Strategy Consultation Statement

This statement provides an overview of the consultation process that took place between 30 November 2020 and 11 January 2021, including the methods of engagement, a description of the main issues raised and how the views of people and stakeholder groups have been considered.

Overall, the feedback on the strategy has been generally positive, with widespread support from government agencies, local authorities, community groups and infrastructure providers.

In total, this consultation received:

- 245 responses from a wide range of organisations and individuals (176 of which came from online surveys and 69 from emails and letters);
- 8k visitors to the website at <https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/blueandgreen>; and
- 120,447 social media hits.

Consultation documents	Document content
<b>Draft Blue &amp; Green Strategy</b>	<p>The consultation outlined our long term proposals to protect, maintain and enhance the quality, condition, and value of the borough’s blue and green assets - parks, open spaces, rivers, lakes, woodland and waterways. The strategy forms a key part of our response to the climate change emergency and covid-19 crisis to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of the borough.</p> <p>A 6-week consultation period gave us the opportunity to obtain a wide range of views on how our blue and green assets should be enhanced and prioritised.</p>
<b>Other relevant supporting documents</b>	<p>Alongside this strategy, we published an audit of the borough’s blue and green spaces (including surpluses and deficits) to guide the provision of blue and green infrastructure (including the creation of new habitats and open spaces) within new development. This also included a review of the borough’s nature conservation sites, priority habitats and priority species.</p> <p>However, views were not sought on these documents as they constituted evidence.</p>
<b>Responding to the consultation</b>	<p>Comments were received via a survey questionnaire using one of the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online: Register to the Lets Enfield web site and submit at <a href="https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/blueandgreen">https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/blueandgreen</a></li> <li>• Email: <a href="mailto:localplan@enfield.gov.uk">localplan@enfield.gov.uk</a></li> <li>• Post: Enfield London Borough Council, Strategic Planning and Design Team, Civic Offices, Enfield, EN1 3BR.</li> </ul>
<b>Methods of publicity</b>	<p>Notifications were sent via email or letter prior to the start of consultation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• statutory consultees, including Environment Agency, Canals and River Trust, Natural England and Sport England;</li> <li>• a range of non-statutory interest groups (e.g. RSPB, London Wildlife Trust, Sports London and Thames21 etc) and other stakeholders with an interest in the borough, such as developers and employers etc;</li> <li>• other voluntary/community groups (e.g. friends of parks); and</li> <li>• infrastructure and service providers (e.g. Network Rail, Thames Water and Energetik); and</li> <li>• members of the public/residents who had previously provided consultation responses to previous consultations on planning related documents.</li> </ul>

	<p>All documentation was made freely available on the Let's Talk Enfield engagement webpage at <a href="https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/blueandgreen">https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/blueandgreen</a>, with relevant links from the front page of the council's web site. Due to the covid-19 pandemic, we were not able to engage the community and other stakeholders in the ways we would under normal circumstances. The timing of the consultation coincided with the period of national restrictions and the second lockdown, thereby precluding hard copies of consultation documents and public exhibitions.</p>
<b>Workshop</b>	<p>We held an online stakeholder workshop with statutory and government agencies (10 December 2020) to discuss the key themes of the strategy and help shape the future planning and delivery of blue and green infrastructure in the borough. Attendees included the Canal &amp; River Trust, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Thames 21.</p> <p>Key highlights from the discussions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improving accessibility along the River Lea Navigation towpath to residents and visitors and links to nature and deprived communities (e.g. hard to reach groups);</li> <li>• reducing severance and reconnecting routes to the wider walking and cycling network in the eastern corridor;</li> <li>• maximising cross-boundary opportunities (e.g. Turkey Brook and Pymmes Brook and Banbury reservoir);</li> <li>• harnessing commercial moorings to activate the waterspace and increase visitor numbers (e.g. Limeshouse Cut);</li> <li>• tackling river and ground water pollution (e.g. tree planting) and other constraints (e.g. invasive species) in the Lower Lea Valley;</li> <li>• exploiting opportunities around key nodes (e.g. Enfield Lock and King George V);</li> <li>• promoting more active woodland – recreation, access and biodiversity etc;</li> <li>• developing a holistic wayfinding strategy / programme to promote routes and tourist links;</li> <li>• maximising net gain opportunities (e.g. habitat creation along rivers and wetlands);</li> <li>• leveraging further interventions (e.g. external funding) to deculvert / renavigate waterbodies; and</li> <li>• developing an integrated approach to decision making to protect nature and reduce pollution.</li> </ul>
<b>Local council meetings</b>	<p>We gave briefings on the content of the draft strategy to representatives from the following bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Forum (November 2020)</li> <li>• Climate Change Task Force (December 2020)</li> <li>• Environment &amp; Climate Action Scrutiny Panel (December 2020)</li> <li>• Friends of Parks – quarterly group meeting (December 2020)</li> </ul>
<b>Formal media engagement work &amp; social media to promote the consultation to those living, working &amp; visiting Enfield</b>	<p>Throughout the consultation period, the consultation programme was promoted through various social media channels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facebook adverts x 3 (general, neighbouring boroughs and 'last chance')</li> <li>• YouTube advert</li> <li>• LinkedIn advert</li> <li>• Newsletter – stories and banner</li> <li>• Press releases</li> <li>• Organic social media – Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook</li> <li>• Enfield Independent adverts (x 2)</li> <li>• Information sent to community/voluntary sector</li> <li>• Commissioned short promo animation</li> <li>• Banner adverts (Cycle Enfield, Have your Say and Meridian Water)</li> </ul>

<b>Leader / Cabinet members</b>	November 2020 – portfolio holder approval (Cllr Dogan) to go out to consultation of the draft Blue and Green Strategy <a href="https://governance.enfield.gov.uk/documents/s84683/Blue%20Green%20Strategy%20Report.pdf">https://governance.enfield.gov.uk/documents/s84683/Blue%20Green%20Strategy%20Report.pdf</a>
<b>General comments / key points</b>	<p>The strategy has received strong endorsement from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• government/statutory agencies (including Transport for London , Natural England, Environment Agency and Forestry Commission);</li> <li>• neighbouring authorities (e.g. Lee Valley Regional Park Authority);</li> <li>• infrastructure providers (e.g. Thames Water);</li> <li>• developers/landowners; and</li> <li>• voluntary groups (e.g. friends of parks).</li> </ul> <p>Key highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a consensus of opinion on the shared vision – positive and outward looking;</li> <li>• clear aims and objectives;</li> <li>• good use of diagrams and photos;</li> <li>• emphasis on partnership working; and</li> <li>• effective delivery mechanisms (e.g. map-based tools)</li> </ul> <p>Respondents put forward some useful solutions and suggested projects, such as new or extended cycleways and footpaths, major open space enhancements and habitat creation. The majority of comments are positive and support the overall vision and aims of the strategy and the supporting evidence base.</p>
<b>Key issues to address (feedback from stakeholders)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise the food-growing potential of farmland and urban sites (e.g. allotments and community gardens)</li> <li>• Stronger health-related focus on sports and recreation facilities (e.g. playing pitches and existing hubs)</li> <li>• Refer to relevant supporting strategies (e.g. Playing Pitch Strategy, Lee Valley Park Development Framework and Biodiversity Action Plan) and good practice guides</li> <li>• Public parks need better facilities (e.g. changing rooms, clean toilets, parking and seating etc) and safer maintenance</li> <li>• Avoid/minimise damage to parks after events (e.g. litter and fly tipping).</li> <li>• Maximise biodiversity net gain through new development including the enhancement of priority habitats and species and non-designated sites</li> <li>• Protect private gardens, green verges and areas of farmland</li> <li>• Reduce or prevent water pollution and surface water run-off from sustainable urban drainage</li> <li>• Provide good quality open space and urban greening (e.g. mini forests, swift boxes, bird boxes, green walls etc) in deprived wards and industrial locations</li> <li>• Improve public access to the Lee Valley and country parks (including walkers and horse riders) and areas of industrial heritage (e.g. Picketts Lock)</li> <li>• Strengthen wayfinding (e.g. better signage and markings, heritage trails, circular routes through parks and alternative means of access to impaired users)</li> <li>• Explanation of terms (e.g. village greens, urban greening and Ramsar sites)</li> <li>• Prioritise the removal of invasive species, chemicals and diseases</li> <li>• Improve river and groundwater quality and reduce contamination</li> <li>• Designate assets of community and heritage value (e.g. food-growing spaces like Forty Hall Farm and Capel Manor)</li> <li>• Maximise the use of railway lines and other linear features as green corridors</li> <li>• Add more projects (e.g. footpath restoration, enhancements to watercourses and segregated cycle lanes) and targets/indicators to measure progress</li> <li>• Avoidance and mitigation strategies (e.g. Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation)</li> <li>• Need more resources and staffing to support the effective management and maintenance of the borough's assets</li> </ul>

	<p>These responses have been taken on board in the preparation of the adopted version – see <a href="https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/climate-change-and-biodiversity/Blue-and-Green-Strategy">https://new.enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/climate-change-and-biodiversity/Blue-and-Green-Strategy</a></p>
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