



5 Addressing Equality and Improving Health and Wellbeing

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INTRODUCTION

5.1 This section outlines policies aimed at creating healthier places and reducing inequalities across the Borough, aligning with the objectives in the Enfield Health and Well Being Strategy, Enfield Transport Plan, Blue and Green Strategy and London Plan.



Bury Lodge Wetland

STRATEGIC POLICY

SC1: IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF ENFIELD'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

1. Development proposals will be expected to plan for and contribute towards healthy and active lifestyles and include measures to reduce health inequalities through the provision of:
 - a. access to sustainable modes of travel, including safe cycling routes, attractive walking routes and easy access to public transport, to reduce car dependency;
 - b. access to green infrastructure, including blue corridors, open spaces and leisure, recreation and play facilities to encourage physical activity;
 - c. access to local community facilities, services and shops, which encourage opportunities for social interaction and active living;
 - d. access to local healthy food opportunities, allotments and food growing spaces;
 - e. an inclusive development layout and public realm that considers the needs of all, including groups with relevant protected characteristics such as the older population and disabled people;
- and
 - f. active design principles which support wellbeing and greater physical movement as part of everyday routines.
2. The following categories of developments should submit a health impact assessment showing how they will address any adverse health impacts and contribute to improving the health and well-being of the Borough:
 - Residential developments comprising 50 or more units;
 - Major and strategic development within areas of poor air quality²¹ and
 - Education, health, leisure and community facilities of more than 250 sqm gross floor area;
 - Where significant impacts are identified through the health impact assessment, measures to mitigate the adverse impact of the development should be incorporated within the proposed scheme and, where possible, achieve positive gains (taking account of the priorities set out in the Enfield Health and Wellbeing Strategy and any updating successor).



²¹ As set out in the Air Quality Assessment.

EXPLANATION

- 5.2 Health and wellbeing are cross-cutting themes, interlinked with many other parts of the ELP. Our environment significantly influences the health and wellbeing of individuals. The planning system plays a key role in enhancing the physical and mental wellbeing of the community. A healthy environment can promote wellbeing, encourage healthy lifestyles for all, and contribute to reducing health inequalities.
- 5.3 Like in other parts of London, Enfield faces a range of health inequalities, such as rising obesity rates and an increasing prevalence of chronic illnesses like diabetes, heart failure and dementia. Although the overall life expectancy is higher than the London and national average, the gap between deprived and more affluent neighbourhoods in the Borough continues to widen.
- 5.4 Health impact assessments (HIAs) are designed to screen and test the health implications arising from proposed development, particularly on vulnerable groups. They recommend measures for mitigating and enhancing these impacts. HIAs should follow the recommended guidance set out in the latest Healthy Urban Planning Checklist (Healthy Urban Development Unit). The checklist should be used at the earliest possible stage of the planning process to inform

the design, layout and composition of the proposed development including ongoing management or monitoring arrangements. The level of detail required will depend on the scale, nature and location of the proposed development.

- 5.5 The list set out in part 2 of the policy is not exhaustive. There may be other categories of development where HIAs are required within an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the appropriate regulations, particularly if it would affect sensitive or vulnerable populations.
- 5.6 New development proposals are required to contribute towards funding infrastructure and services to meet the needs arising from new development. Infrastructure to help improve the health and wellbeing of Enfield's residents is expected to be delivered on-site as secured by S106 obligations. Suitable off-site or financial contributions will be sought to address the needs arising from the development, ensuring that proposals meet the objectives set out in part 1 of the policy.



Rain Garden - London Road North

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICY

SC2: PROTECTING AND ENHANCING SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Development involving the loss or release of a community building or use to other uses will not be supported unless evidence can be provided as part of the planning application to demonstrate the community building has been:
 - a. offered to the market for the range of existing lawful uses (typically non-residential institutions, such as places of worship, schools and community halls) over a 12-month period, at a market rent or sale price benchmarked against other equivalent properties in the area;
 - b. declared surplus to requirements where the loss, or partial loss is part of a wider public service transformation plan which requires investment in modern, fit for purpose infrastructure and facilities to sustain and improve services or to meet future population needs;
 - c. shown to be unsuitable in size and scale to its location which already has good access to facilities which meet similar local needs where these arise; and
 - d. the opportunities to share the use of the existing site or co locate services have been fully explored and are shown to be impractical.
2. New community facilities should:
 - a. be located within or adjacent to the Borough's designated town centres (as shown on the Policies Map) and neighbourhood shopping parades, unless they are within walking distance of public transport, pedestrian and cycling routes or form part of a recognisable or planned cluster/hub of community facilities.
3. New or improved community facilities should:
 - a. be outward-facing, creating a strong active frontage which is not set back from the street so that they are welcoming, safe and inclusive; meet the identified or future local need;
 - b. optimise the use and capacity of the site;
 - c. avoid the loss of housing and employment floorspace and significant harm to the amenities of neighbouring properties and uses;
 - d. operate as a multifunctional space offering fair and affordable access to the public (including protected groups) and sufficient capacity/flexibility to meet a range of needs (e.g. shared spaces or co-located uses), especially outside of core hours; and
- e. put in place appropriate maintenance and management arrangements, taking account of the needs of other infrastructure providers.
4. Contributions will be sought towards new school places to meet the needs arising from new housing development (excluding care homes), taking account of available capacity within existing schools and the number of pupils it will generate, from early years through to secondary education. New or expanded schools for larger sites will be expected to incorporate specialist provision where demand exists and make reasonable adjustments to support the needs of the disabled and mobility impaired. In exceptional circumstances, a contribution towards off-site outdoor play space will be accepted in the vicinity of the school in lieu of on-site provision. These provisions and contributions will be captured through Planning obligations.
5. Contributions will be sought towards additional health and social care facilities, taking account of the latest strategic health needs assessment, pharmaceutical assessment and relevant NHS estate strategies.

EXPLANATION

- 5.7 This policy aims to ensure that new or enhanced community facilities are provided in association with development. The goal is to meet the changing demands and identified needs of the Borough’s growing population. Ideally, these facilities should be located near defined town centres (in chapter 10) and other easily accessible locations, such as public transportation corridors. In the context of this policy, community provision includes:
- educational and training facilities;
 - health and recreational amenities;
 - children’s play areas;
 - places of worship;
 - burial grounds;
 - libraries;
 - pubs and cultural establishments; and
 - services related to community safety and security, such as police and emergency services.
- 5.8 Proposals involving the loss of an existing community use will be resisted, except in exceptional circumstances, as set out in part 1 of this policy. In cases where the loss of a community use can be justified, the applicant will need to explore the opportunity to accommodate an alternative community use which would better meet local needs, in line with relevant strategies.
- 5.9 Community facilities should be designed to operate as flexible and multi-purpose spaces capable of accommodating a range of uses and activities tailored to suit the needs of diverse groups, organisations and individuals. These facilities should also be accessible to all users and designed to be visible from the street, which includes having active frontages and welcoming entrances facing the public realm.
- 5.10 Where appropriate, planning obligations will be sought to secure new and improved community facilities, suitably located in the Borough to mitigate the impact of new development, as defined in part 2 of this policy. Estate regeneration schemes and other major developments are expected to provide essential services (e.g. health, educational and childcare facilities) on-site or within close proximity, easily accessible by walking such as a neighbourhood shopping area to meet the needs arising from the new occupants.
- 5.11 All major developments that involve the provision of community facilities (e.g. secondary schools and primary healthcare centres) must optimise the use of the site through a design-led approach. Developers will be expected to test the feasibility of innovative design options, such as multi-storey buildings, above ground floor level outdoor social spaces, flexible spaces and the co-location of community facilities (e.g. early year facilities within primary school sites and active ground floor units along the main streets).
- 5.12 New educational facilities, including specialist provision, are expected to comply with relevant guidance from the Department for Education, Sport England and other relevant national governing bodies. Planning applications will need to include details of the indicative catchment area of the proposed school and provide an assessment of the impact of the scheme on the local highway network and pedestrian access and cycle movement through the site. Future needs will be met through the expansion or redevelopment of existing school sites and the allocations of new sites as shown on the Policies Map.
- 5.13 Applicants should use the NHS Healthy Urban Development Unit’s “Planning Contribution Model for London” to calculate costs and financial contributions. Typically, these contributions will fund capital projects. However, in designated opportunity areas, it may be appropriate to seek a revenue contribution over a fixed period to cover the gap between the arrival of a new population and their inclusion within the Department of Health funding allocations.
- 5.14 The Council will continue to work with infrastructure providers and relevant groups to ensure that community facilities and services are developed and modernised to meet changing requirements and reflect the new approaches to service delivery.