



Barnet & Southgate College

Response to Enfield Local Plan Consultation

September 2021

Introduction

Barnet & Southgate College is supportive of the Enfield Local Plan draft published in June 2021.

The College is a large regional and national provider of further and higher education, with its largest campus located in Southgate town centre as well as an adult education facility at Edmonton Green.

The College is part of a rich educational infrastructure in the London Borough of Enfield, working closely with local secondary schools and higher education providers in London and nationally.

We have a particular interest in the areas of the local plan detailed below based on our current footprint and strategic plans.

Southgate (PL6)

The College's main campus at Southgate sits behind the High Street within a short walk of the tube station, bus station and town centre. It is a large site with a mixture of building styles and quality. In recent years over £10m has been spent refurbishing the core buildings, and there are some peripheral buildings in poorer quality which are being considered for disposal to fund future development. The College campus is adjacent to that of Ashmole School (over the borough boundary in Barnet) together forming a large area of educational land use just behind the town centre.

The College is planning to improve the visibility and presence of the College from the High Street which is currently hampered by a narrow entrance drive, gates and lack of a visible main entrance/reception area.

Discussions have taken place in the past with the local authority in respect of the public library building at the front of the campus, and the College remains interested in acquiring this land to create a much more coherent and welcoming entrance to the College as part of a mixed-use redevelopment of the site. Similarly, there have been previous discussions with the Royal Mail in respect of their depot next to the public library, as taken together these two plots of land would enable the College to move its centre of gravity much closer to the High Street.

The College is keen to ensure its development plans are consistent with and complementary to those for the neighbouring Site Allocation SA23 (Alan Pullinger Centre and Minchenden car park). We would be very interested collaborating with the other landowners to deliver a joint redevelopment of this part of the High Street.

Edmonton Green (PL3)

The College's other campus in the borough is located in converted office space in Edmonton Green Shopping Centre on a medium-term lease. This campus is for adult education including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). The College will consider when and how to relocate this provision in the context of the redevelopment of the shopping centre and its proximity to the Meridian Water development (see below).

Meridian Water (PL5)

We are supportive of the aspirations for a vibrant and sustainable community at Meridian Water. We believe that in the interests of long-term planning for a successful development, the council should seek to make provision for a full range of educational opportunities – including vocational training and higher-level skills. This should go beyond seeking employment and training opportunities associated with the development and construction on this site and seek to support conditions and facilities for the development of local skills that match the likely needs of the intended industries and sectors to be located here.

Sports Specialism and Playing Fields (CL4, CL5, Rural Enfield PL8)

Our Southgate campus is located in the town centre, a short walk away from the bus and tube stations. This is in keeping with most of our college and education locations – seeking to enable sustainable travel by staff and students alike. A weakness though is that we are a major sports college with over 500 young students annually participating in Sports Academies as part of their studies, including the only National Football League (NFL) Academy outside the United States. We lack suitable sports fields that are in an equally accessible location and currently have to transport students by bus to facilities (New River, Coles Park) in the London Borough of Haringey. Whilst we wouldn't rule out the development of recreational and sporting facilities in Crews Hill or other rural parts of Enfield, we would like to see provision for retaining or developing sports pitches for public use, closer to existing town centres and nodes of public transport.