

Policy and Resources Committee

The Policy and Resources Committee is the principal way that strategic policy and plans on major issues are discussed and recommended to Full Council. The committee is responsible for; strategic policy, finance, corporate risk management, Information Technology, strategic partnerships, emergency planning and customer services.

Introduction:

As a council we want to create successful places, achieve great outcomes, deliver quality services and develop resilient communities. But, like all councils, face an increasingly difficult financial challenge, with funding sources not keeping pace with demand and uncertainty about how services will be funded in the future. The council must prioritise its limited resources effectively and develop plans for the next five years to deliver both statutory duties and ambitions for Barnet within these financial constraints. A key role for the Policy and Resources Committee is to coordinate the Council's budget setting process which includes bringing together the savings proposals and priorities for the theme committees. The committee also has a role in ensuring efficient back office services and effective customer services.

Committee Priorities for 2019-2024

Committee priority	How we will deliver this by 2024
Ensuring we have strong financial management to make best use of our limited resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering on our five-year Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) • Monitoring budgets robustly and equipping staff with the skills to be able to do this effectively • Reviewing and realigning contracts to ensure we are delivering services in the most efficient way • Tightening our financial controls to reduce unnecessary spend and target fraud
Continuing to improve customer services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making it as easy as possible for people to access our services digitally and providing support to those who can't do so on their own • Providing all customers with a high-quality service with efficient and effective resolution at the earliest opportunity • Providing greater certainty and trust by being clear about how we will manage requests at the outset, and proactively updating residents on progress
Continuing to work effectively with our strategic partners to improve outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working closely with key public, private and voluntary organisations within the borough • Collaborating across priority cross-cutting areas such as mental health, employment and skills • Allowing closer collaboration with our IT to achieve more effective inter-agency working
Planning strategically to enable Barnet to grow and meet the needs of residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering housing, community facilities and jobs for a growing borough • Working with the development industry and development partners to deliver new housing (particularly in Local Plan areas of change), to meet London-wide targets • Ensuring the delivery of affordable housing is integral to all new developments • Working with traders and the development industry to maintain vibrant town centres across the Borough • Securing and delivering CIL and S106 benefits associated with all new development
Being resilient as a local authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complying with new Resilience 2019/20 Standards for London • Complying with the agreed Business Continuity (BC) work schedule