



Borough Profile – Barnet

What you need to know about digital infrastructure in the borough



Borough profile:

Barnet

Key contacts

Digital Champion

Barry May, Assistant Director for Resident Experience and Digital

Barry.May@barnet.gov.uk

020 8359 7628

Connected Places Lead

Witek Wojas, Digital Infrastructure and Smart Cities Lead

Witek.wojas@barnet.gov.uk

020 8359 3828

Digital Ambassador

Councillor Rishikesh Chakraborty

cllr.r.chakraborty@barnet.gov.uk

About the borough's strategy

The Council's new adopted [Corporate Plan 2023-2026](#) sets out:

We care for people by **Tackling Inequalities**, including promoting digital inclusion to equip everyone with the skills, tools, and confidence to thrive in the digital era, and **Reducing Poverty** by focusing on growth sectors like digital industries.

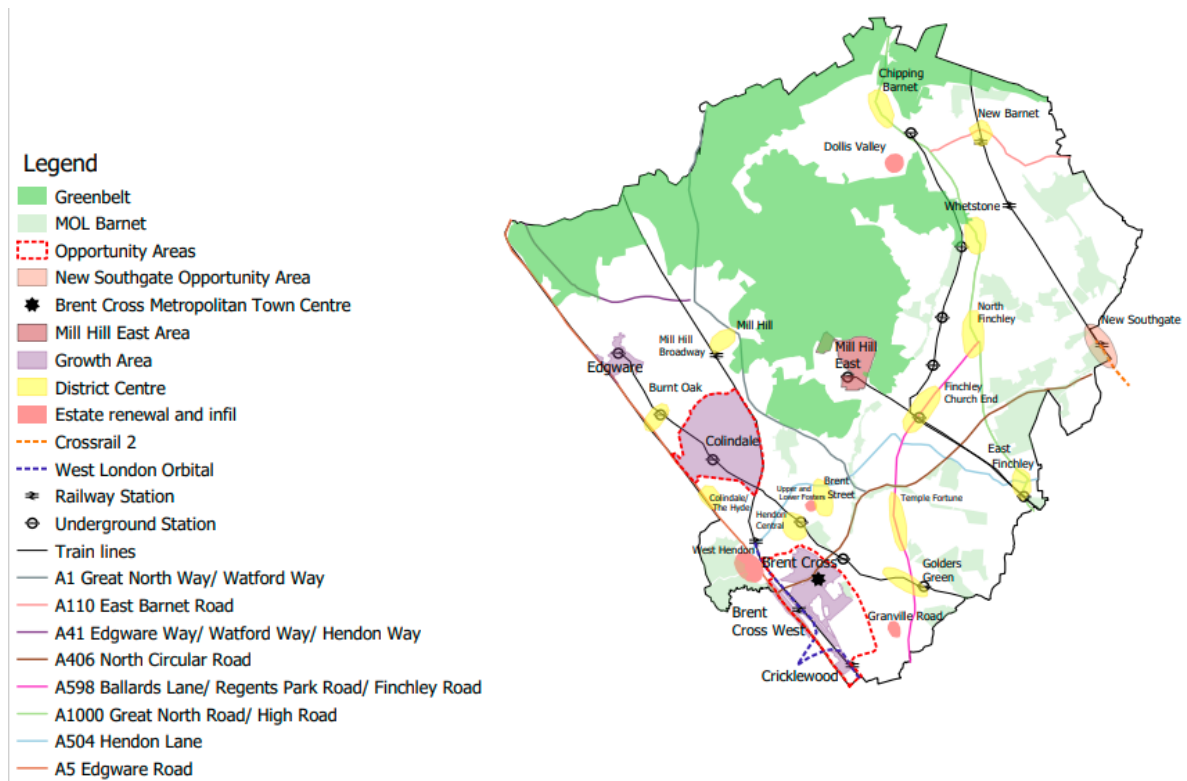
We care for our places through better connected **neighbourhoods and town centres** and by delivering **Quality homes** that are supported by state-of-the-art digital infrastructure.

Barnet Council's Development Plan is:

The corporate priorities account for the [Council's Growth Strategy](#) (2020), where one of the five themes was 'A Connected Borough with state-of-the-art digital infrastructure'.

[The Local Plan | Barnet Council](#) (adopted in September 2012)

[Local Plan review | Barnet Council](#) (forthcoming, due for adoption by Spring 2024)



Barnet is a great place to live, work and visit; and our new vision puts people, places, and the planet at the heart of regeneration, meaning it's going to get even better. Sustainability and the green economy are fundamental to everything we do, our BarNET ZERO campaign is award winning and is garnering public support for change.

Barnet is the second largest borough by population; our residents are talented with strong educational skills and are keen to embrace ideas and innovation. We seek for Barnet to be a destination in London and the borough of culture 2026.

Barnet Council is working with partners to deliver one of the country's most ambitious development programmes including 35,500 new homes by 2036. In places like Brent Cross, Colindale and West Hendon, the council is leading long-term regeneration programmes with a solid pipeline of construction activity.

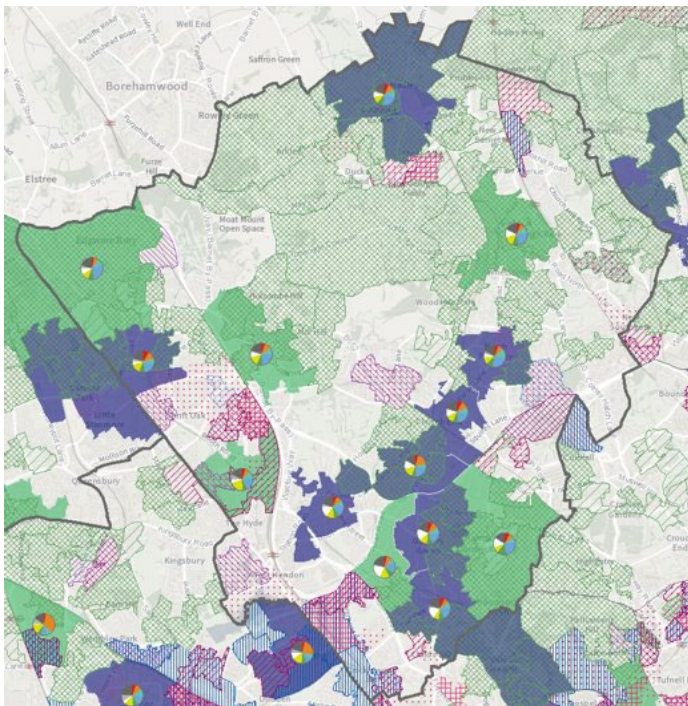
The new Brent Cross West railway station will open in 2023 creating opportunity for a net-zero town centre and unlocking 27,000 jobs. Across the rest of the borough over £90m more of development income is being invested in infrastructure programmes, and a further £30m across the larger town centres within the borough.

Our local economy is strong, with 4,000 new businesses registered each year; Barnet has the third highest concentration of SME businesses in London.

How we are improving connectivity in Barnet:

In Barnet, through our Connected Places programme 2023-2027 there are five key connectivity investment programmes being delivered by the council:

- Gigabit Broadband Programme – *securing delivery of full fibre to every property.*
- Cellular 4G/5G Networks Programme – *driving small cells and 5G investments.*
- Public Wi-Fi Programme – *a free public network for access online.*
- Imagery Analytics Programme – *harnessing the power of imagery data.*
- IoT Network Programme – *enabling an affordable transition to IoT.*



Map showing areas of Barnet where residents are likely to be digitally excluded because of higher concentrations of:

Older people

Low-income families

Unemployment

Disability

Micro business (coloured circles)

[London Office of Technology & Innovation, 2021: Pan London Digital](#)

We seek to become a leader in connectivity, with faster network rollouts, product innovation, and trialling of new services, technologies, and capabilities. We will actively support opportunities to trial and test new capabilities and services within the borough.

We seek partnerships with network operators to unlock service improvement and address gaps in commercial offerings. We will seek additional social, economic, and environmental value outcomes for residents and communities from all commercial investments.

Our digitally excluded areas and what is being done to help

With our world moving online, Barnet seeks to tackle inequalities to address digital exclusion and ensure that no one is being left behind.

We believe that delivering access to all is key, through boroughwide reliable, accessible and affordable connectivity infrastructure; alongside individual outcomes for residents and businesses to enhance digital skills, ensure access to devices, and to ensure that people can find the support and help they require to be confident online.

Our current Digital Inclusion projects involve:

1. Identifying digitally excluded residents to target interventions.
2. Improving digital skills and confidence through digital champions.
3. Ensuring council services are accessible to all.
4. Improving digital connectivity and affordability of connections.
5. Improving access to the equipment to get online.

Providing jobs and employment support through digital infrastructure.