

## 4. Visions & Objectives

### Open Space and the Natural Environment

The value of natural spaces, whether private gardens, rivers and lakes or Green Belt, is recognised and afforded a high priority. Land, air and water environments are sustainably managed, ensuring that the wide range of different open spaces and habitats, with their distinctive animal and plant life, are well managed and accessible. As well as helping conserve and enhance biodiversity, Bromley's natural environment supports the wellbeing of its communities, with open spaces and trees providing healthy environments and space for leisure and sport. Opportunities are taken to increase natural habitats, especially in areas with a deficiency, linking them together and improving their quality and accessibility.

#### **Objectives:**

- Manage, protect and enhance natural environments.
- Encourage the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
- Ensure that the Green Belt continues to fulfil its functions.
- Improve the quality of open space and encourage provision in areas of deficiency and in any new development.

### Health and Wellbeing

The quality of life in Bromley has improved in all its neighbourhoods with all residents enjoying better health and wellbeing. Areas with a concentration of social and/or environmental difficulties are being improved. Communities are served by local shopping parades, education, healthcare, leisure, community and cultural facilities, including libraries and places of worship. New facilities are encouraged in accessible locations to deliver flexible and efficient community hubs. The environment is designed to maximise accessibility for people with disabilities. Residents are helped to improve their own places and local environments for the benefit of all the community. There is less crime and anti-social behaviour.

#### **Objectives:**

- Produce healthier environments and infrastructure to support people in living fuller, longer, healthier, more sustainable lives.
- Co-ordinate the improvement of Bromley's designated Renewal Areas, and other areas with environmental difficulties, to reduce health inequalities; and encourage all communities to improve their own environments.
- Neighbourhoods offer good quality homes and an accessible range of shops and services, appropriate to the roles of the different centres - from town centres to local neighbourhood centres and parades.
- Ensure new community facilities are appropriately located to provide accessible effective modern services, and resist the net loss of facilities.

## **Homes**

A range of decent homes of different types and sizes are available and housing supply is tailored to local needs. Any new housing complements and respects the character of neighbourhood in which it is located, paying particular attention to the density of development, parking requirements and improving the choice of accommodation available.

### **Objectives:**

- Ensure there is an appropriate supply of homes to meet the varied needs of the local population, which responds to changing demographics, in particular as the population ages.
- Ensure new residential development, extensions and conversions complement and respect local character.
- Ensure new homes are designed to minimise environmental impact and are supported by appropriate social and environmental infrastructure.

## **Business, employment and the local economy**

Bromley is a prosperous, thriving and skilled borough where businesses choose to locate. New businesses start up and grow using local skills, supply chains and investment and Business Areas offer high quality flexible accommodation. There is an improved range of employment opportunities for residents and education and skills levels have been raised throughout the Borough.

### **Objectives:**

- Business Areas adapt successfully to the changing needs of modern industry and commerce.
- Ensure there are an appropriate supply of commercial land and a range of flexible quality business premises across the borough.
- Ensure businesses contribute to a high quality, sustainable environment, through their premises development and locational decisions.
- Support the appropriate provision of facilities to deliver high quality education and training.
- Support the Strategic Outer London Development Centre (SOLDC) designation at Biggin Hill to enhance the areas employment and business opportunities, whilst having regard to the accessibility and environmental constraints.
- Support the digital economy and the infrastructure required for it and modern business, such as high speed fibre connections.

Town centres provide a range of goods and services and are safe, clean and welcoming for all. Bromley Town Centre is a competitive Metropolitan Town Centre, complementing others in the region and attracting a wide range of visitors to its shopping, cinema, theatre and restaurant areas. Orpington functions as a strong and vibrant major centre, offering a good range of shopping, leisure and public amenities. These centres, together with the district, local and neighbourhood centres, provide accessible shops, services and facilities for residents and wider communities across the Borough.

**Objectives:**

- Ensure vitality of Bromley Town Centre, delivering the aims of the Area Action Plan.
- Encourage a diverse offer in town centres, including shops and markets, services, leisure and cultural facilities as well as homes.
- Support the continued improvement of Orpington and other district and local centres.
- Encourage safe town centres and a prosperous evening economy.
- Maintain and improve neighbourhood centres and parades across the Borough to ensure locally accessible facilities.

**Design and the public realm**

New development of all kinds is well designed, safe, energy efficient and complements its surroundings, respecting the existing scale and layout. Private or public open space, and appropriate car parking are key considerations. Public art and street furniture make places more attractive and comfortable for users. Our roads and streets are clean but uncluttered, with street trees and verges improving their appearance.

**Objective:**

- Ensure development attains high quality design standards.
- Ensure development includes appropriate well planned private or public open space.
- Ensure public areas are well designed, safe and accessible.

**Built heritage**

Our man-made heritage assets; areas of distinctive character, listed buildings, conservation areas and monuments, are protected and enhanced. No historic features are considered to be “at risk” and underused heritage assets are brought back into productive uses. The borough’s rich heritage is widely enjoyed.

**Objective:**

- Continue to protect locally and nationally significant heritage assets.
- Ensure development complements and improves the setting of heritage assets.
- Encourage greater accessibility of heritage assets.
- Encourage a proactive approach to the protection and improvement of heritage assets to contribute to strategic, local planning and economic objectives.

**Transport**

Moving around the borough is easier due to reduced road congestion and improved public transport networks. Commuting traffic has reduced as more people share car journeys and choose alternative ways of working and travelling. Reduced road traffic results in less pollution and greenhouse gases from transportation. Any new development should where appropriate include electric vehicle charging points and there are more car clubs, increasing travel choices for local people. Walking and cycling to work, school and for leisure, has increased and the road environment is safer for vulnerable users. Public transport is more accessible to those with mobility problems and is safer and more reliable.

**Objectives:**

- Reduce road congestion at peak times through better management of the network and encouraging patterns of development that reduce the need to travel.
- Support improvements to public transport links, including associated parking, and facilitate environments that encourage walking and cycling.
- Locate major developments where they can maximise the use of public transport.
- Ensure new developments include electric charging points, cycling facilities such as dedicated cycle routes, and car clubs where appropriate, increasing choice for local people
- Ensure streets are safe, accessible and uncluttered, improve road safety and reduce air and noise pollution from traffic.
- Ensure the efficient movement of freight, whilst minimising its impacts on the transport network.
- To secure investment in critical public transport infrastructure to improve transport connectivity and orbital movements to East London.

**Environmental challenges**

New development is designed in such a way as to not only enhance the character of the area but also to ensure it does not worsen any environmental problems. Buildings are resource efficient, using less energy, producing less carbon and conserving water. Opportunities for appropriate low carbon, decentralised energy networks and renewable energy are considered and flood risk is reduced. Less waste is produced and more is managed and disposed of locally through new cleaner technologies. Pollution control prioritises key local problems and new development helps bring contaminated land back into use.

**Objectives:**

- Reduce environmental impacts and the use of precious resources in the design and construction of new development.
- Support the development of local energy networks and low-carbon and renewable energy generation.
- Improve the resilience of buildings and places to cope with a changing climate, ensuring flood risk is managed and potential problems of extreme weather are minimised.
- Reduce the amount of waste that ends up in landfill, particularly biodegradable waste, and increase self-sufficiency.
- Reduce air pollution and minimise problems of noise and light pollution. Ensure contaminated land can be remediated where possible.