

Bromley's Strategic Issues**Living in Bromley – our residents and their homes**

Bromley's population was estimated by the GLA to be around 300,855 in 2009, having been recorded as 295,532 in the 2001 Census. The population generally is older than the London Average, with an average (mean) age of 39; however, there are areas of the borough with higher proportions of younger age groups. The census indicated marked concentrations of 0-4 year olds in Crystal Palace, Penge and Anerley to the north west of the Borough, Mottingham to the far north and the Cray Valley in the east. These concentrations of children, and now young people, coincide with the areas known to exhibit high levels of multiple deprivation. A significant borough-wide issue is the high proportion of older people – the number of people over 60 exceeds the number under 16 – and this trend is likely to increase.

The majority of the population is concentrated in the northern half of the borough, the southern part being largely Green Belt. There is a range of housing types including blocks of flats, terraces, semi-detached (the majority of Bromley's properties) and detached housing. A high proportion of residents own outright, or are buying, their own home but there are also privately rented homes and those rented from or part-owned with, a Registered Provider (formerly Housing Associations). Overall, household incomes are higher than both the London and National average but housing affordability is a significant issue for many with high average house prices. Bromley has both statutory housing need and considerable demand for housing with good access to London, high performing schools and a generally spacious and green suburban feel being key attractors for people to locate in Bromley.

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment commissioned in 2008 with other south east London Boroughs showed that 13.9% of households in Bromley were unsuitably housed due to one or more factors such as major disrepair or overcrowding. This compares with 18.4% in Greater London as a whole.

Bromley has one of the largest groups of Gypsies and Travellers in England, with between 1,000 and 1,500 families. The vast majority live in the Cray Valley and most are now housed in "bricks and mortar" accommodation, as it became harder to find stopping places in the area. There are two traveller sites in the Cray Valley and a site with temporary permission to the west of the Borough close to the Croydon Boundary. Gypsy and traveller families tend to be much larger than the general population, have the lowest educational results of any ethnic minority group (Ofsted) and the health and well-being of Gypsies and Travellers is the poorest of any ethnic minority group in the UK, with an average life expectancy 10 years less for men and 12 years less for women than the general population. A Gypsy & Traveller Health & Needs Assessment (2008) indicated a clear consistency with the themes identified in national research. The Borough is also home to a community of Travelling Showpeople at Keston.

Bromley's population is relatively healthy with a lower Standardised Mortality Ratio (SMR) and higher life expectancy at birth (81.7 years) than the national average. There are however inequalities across the Borough and whilst the gap between the most and least deprived wards has reduced from 10.6 years to 7.2 years over the last 10 years, "health inequality" remains the major priority for the health service in Bromley.

Whilst the population overall is healthier than the national average, there are differences in health and well being between different population groups and geographical areas. Individual characteristics affect susceptibility to poor health as do "wider determinants". The

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment recognises that there are concentrations in particular areas and these are also highlighted in the Draft London Plan as areas for regeneration.

Bromley schools generally fair better than schools nationally with an average 65% of children in achieving 5 A-C grades at GCSE level, compared to the national average figure of 53.4%. (Department for Education 2010 results)

Crime is a key concern of Bromley's residents. Although it is a relatively safe place - statistics show the borough as having the 4th lowest crime rate in London – people still fear crime and anti-social behaviour remains an important issue. Not unexpectedly, crime rates vary across the borough with the highest concentration in Bromley Town Centre.

There a few places in Bromley where low income, poor health, lower educational achievement and skills, higher crime and a poor quality living environment combine to produce significant problems. These areas are identified in the draft London Plan as areas where regeneration, development and transport proposals should be integrated with improvements in learning and skills, health, employment, environment and housing.

Borough wide issues

What are the implications of the ageing population for Bromley's places?

What are the challenges for young people growing up in particular areas?

As the population and its structure changes, how should Bromley measure and respond to housing needs? Does the type of housing need to change? Where will any new housing be located?

Will addressing the challenges for the wider community also address the particular issues of the Gypsy and Traveller community or is there a need for a specifically tailored approach?

How can we respond to the areas designated in the Draft London Plan as being in need of regeneration?

How can crime and anti-social behaviour be positively influenced by any future development?

Supporting communities - community infrastructure

Health

The Princess Royal University Hospital (PRU) in Farnborough this provides “acute” health care as part of the South London Healthcare NHS Trust “a single hospital on several sites” which also includes the Beckenham Beacon and Orpington Hospital, as well as two other hospitals outside the Borough - Queen Mary's Sidcup and Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich.

Bromley has 51 General Practices distributed around the Borough. It has more practices but has significantly less whole time equivalent GPs than the England average. GP practices operate from a variety of premises, from converted houses in the ownership of GP's, to health centres, and the new Beckenham Beacon development. More than a third of GP surgeries are not compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act, about half of which cannot be adapted to achieve compliance. There is considerable variation in the capacity of GP practices in Bromley, but GPs commonly work in smaller practices and with larger list sizes.

There is a drive nationally to bring 50% of outpatient and secondary care activity out of hospitals, including minor surgical procedures and treatments, therapies & diagnostic tests, and into community primary care settings (General Practice & clinics).

The management of health funding is also changing. Healthcare in Bromley is currently commissioned by the Bromley Primary Care Trust (NHS Bromley) and delivered by GP's and “Bromley Healthcare” who provide wide range of community health services in a variety of settings including GP surgeries, clinics and hospitals. However, over the next couple of years GP consortia will take responsibility for the commissioning of services. Public health commissioning responsibilities will fall within the Council's remit. The various changes will present significant challenges for future health infrastructure provision.

The Council and Oxleas NHS Trust provide mental health service. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service social workers (CAMHS) works with children and young people who have complex mental health needs. Adults with serious mental health problems are supported by Community Mental Health Teams based in Penge, Bromley and Orpington. Hospital beds for inpatient care are based at Green Parks House, Princess Royal University Hospital. The Bethlem (South London and Maudsley Trust) provides treatment for children, adults and older people with mental health problems or an addiction to drugs or alcohol living in South London, and specialist services, for people from across the country.

Emergency Services

The London Ambulance Service have three ambulance stations in the Borough at Bromley, Crown Lane, Beckenham and St Paul's Cray. They have no requirements for additional provision in Bromley (Feb 2010).

The Borough has four Fire Stations at Bromley, Beckenham, Orpington and Biggin Hill although fires may also be attended by six other nearby stations in neighbouring boroughs. There are issues regarding the suitability of the Fire Station buildings at Bromley and Biggin Hill.

Bromley Police station was built in 2003 and contains all of the boroughs custody cells.. There are currently twenty-two Safer Neighbourhood Teams and two Safer Transport Teams in Bromley borough made up of Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) and police officers and operating from 14 Safer Neighbourhood Offices located on high streets and in prominent locations to provide community focused policing. As part of the extensive

modernisation programme Beckenham Police Station and Penge Police Station, London's oldest police station. The provision of appropriate police infrastructure is an issue for local communities, as is the future use of redundant police stations and other historic public buildings which are often listed or lie within conservation areas.

Bromley County Court, College Road, deals with all but the most complicated civil law proceedings. Bromley Magistrates' Courts, London Road, are a key part of the criminal justice system with over 95% of cases are also completed at this level.

Pre Schools

Provision for pre-school children is found in a range of settings and is varied in nature, including playgroups, nursery / pre-schools, day nurseries, schools and family centres. The different types of provision produce educational and social benefits for the children but can also benefit parents in respect of social interaction and mental health or enable parents to work.

Playgroups, nursery and pre-schools offer morning or afternoon sessions for children from about 2 ½ years are found in many local community venues (church, village and scout halls etc). Such venues may also offer "parent & toddler" sessions, where parents/carers stay with the children. Numerous schools have integrated nursery classes providing pre reception morning or afternoon daily educational sessions and Children & Family Centres (CFC's), often based in schools, bring together a range of support agencies to meet the needs of children under five and their parents/carers. The availability of local community venues is particularly important to assist in enabling locally accessible services for pre school children and their parents.

Day nurseries provide all day childcare and education for babies and pre-school children, enabling parents to work. Out of school childcare, for children up to 8 are usually based in or near schools and are run outside school hours (via a breakfast club, an after-school club or a holiday playscheme). The Council's Childcare Sufficiency Report, which also looks at the availability of childminders, indicates where there are pressures on places. The report is due to be updated Spring 2011.

Schools

There are 74 primary schools and 17 secondary schools in the public sector in Bromley. Additionally there are 4 special schools and 13 independent schools providing primary, middle and secondary education.

The strategic planning of primary school places and school organisation in the Borough is currently addressed through the Primary Schools' Development Plan. Increases in the birth rate since 2001 have fed through to create a significant increase in demand for primary places which will continue to grow through to at least 2013. An additional 3 permanent and 1 temporary classes have recently been provided and the Council is working to ensure the provision of a further 7 additional forms of entry (210 places) by 2013 to meet this increased demand. The statutory age for education and training is increasing to 18+years by 2015 and enhancements are being made to secondary schools to meet this provision and Langley Park School for Boys is being completely rebuilt.

The landscape of educational provision is changing nationally as the Government is encouraging public sector schools to become Academies (publicly funded independent schools, free from local authority and national government control), and the development of new Free Schools, (all-ability state-funded schools set up in response to parental demand.)A few Bromley secondary schools have already converted to Academies and all are either

actively seeking or considering seeking Academy status. Additionally a number of primary schools are seeking academy status.

In addition to public sector schools, the borough has a significant number of independent schools. (primary, middle and secondary). Although there have been a couple of closures in recent years, there remains 13 independent schools.

Adult, Higher and Further Education

Bromley College of Further and Higher Education and Orpington College of Further Education are currently consulting on a proposed merger, which would provide courses across the two main recently upgraded sites. Both currently offer a range of courses and degrees, ranging from vocational courses for 14 - 15 yrs olds attending from local schools, to and Undergraduate Degrees (at Bromley College, in conjunction with the University of Greenwich). Additionally the colleges have been campaigning jointly to promote apprenticeships through both colleges.

Bromley Adult Education College has three main centres across the Borough. The Widmore Centre, Bromley, the Kentwood Centre in Penge and the Poverest Centre. Additionally they run courses at a variety of community venues across the Borough.

This section will also include information and issues relating to

- Play
- Youth
- Leisure & Recreation
- Cultural and Social Activities

Borough wide issues

How can valuable community facilities be retained and improved, and how can new facilities be secured where they are needed?

How the challenges presented by the increase in school rolls through primary and on into secondary education be met, in the context of the new landscape of independent academies and free schools?

Does the geographical spread of facilities present challenges in ensuring accessible local provision of services and activities which support people's quality of life and their ability to contribute effectively to the community?

How can former public buildings, such as redundant police stations, which are of historic value and contribute to the sense of place be effectively utilised for the community and their condition protected?

Getting around – transport and accessibility

Bromley's public transport network is related to the distribution of the population, with better access and choice in the more densely populated areas. There is generally good access to central London via the rail network (26 stations), and bus services (61 routes) are relatively widespread but public transport is still very limited in the rural area. The London Travel Demand Survey shows that Bromley residents make a lot of journeys – second only to Barnet – and that the average journey length is the longest in London.

Car ownership is high and more than half the daily journeys people make are by car, resulting in road congestion at peak times and traffic related air pollution. While many have the choice of private or public transport, there are those who do not use public transport, either because they are in an area not served by any public transport or they are not physically able to use the service. Equally there are people who have no access to a car and must rely solely on public transport.

Compared to other London boroughs, Bromley has relatively low levels of walking and cycling. Walking represents 28% of trips which is roughly average for London, with cycling at only 1%. In addition to safety concerns, the borough's outer rural terrain has been highlighted as a barrier against cycling.

Bromley currently has only one on-street car club space (at Bromley North) and a second about to come on stream, connected to the village hall development at Orpington. Both have been secured through the planning process with free membership for residents of the associated development for the first year.

Supporting the use of electric vehicles is one of the priorities of the London Plan and new development will be required to include charging points and spaces to enable the network to develop. The Mayor's strategy suggests that publicly available charging points should be no more than 1km (0.62 miles) apart, and it is not considered that this will be appropriate or practically achievable in some of the more rural areas of the Borough.

Bromley currently has two publicly accessible charging points in the car park of The Glades shopping centre in Bromley town centre. The Council's focus will be to concentrate initially on providing charging points in its car parks situated in the main town centres of Bromley, Orpington, Beckenham, Penge and West Wickham.

This section will also include information and issues relating to

- Parking
- Road safety
- Biggin Hill Airport

Borough wide issues

How can any new development help reduce the need to travel? What should any new residential development include to help improve transport choice and reduce peak time road traffic?

How can parking be better managed to reduce road congestion, support town centres and improve the street scene? How can any new development contribute towards these goals?

Our valued environments – natural and man-made

Bromley is the largest London Borough by area. More than half is open space of various types, including farms, woodland, commons and parks and gardens. The majority of the built-up area was developed during the 19th and 20th century but there are also some notable historic features such as Roman villas at Crofton and Keston, and an Iron Age Settlement at Holwood, and the caves at Chislehurst associated with Roman and Saxon times. The Borough's town centres and villages have existed for several hundred years, large parts of the Borough took shape during London's suburban expansion.

The character is broadly suburban residential with the focus of local business being in town centres and designated Business Areas. The density of development is generally low though it varies across the borough, from detached housing with large gardens to higher density flatted development.

There are 45 conservation areas within the London Borough of Bromley. The conservation areas vary in size and composition from small hamlets, to villages, town centres and suburbia. There are approximately 815 Statutory Listed buildings of varying ages and architectural styles, the majority of these are listed grade II. However, there are several grade I listed buildings including the Crystal Palace Dinosaurs, the Keston Windmill and Down House as well as several grade II* listed buildings including the National Sports Centre at Crystal Palace designed in the 1950s. Other heritage assets within the borough include 2155 Locally Listed Buildings, five parks that are included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historical Interest in England (National Heritage Act 1983) and 7 Scheduled monuments.

In 2010 Bromley had 26 listed structures, parks and monuments on the English Heritage "at risk" register. However, the borough has no Conservation Areas at Risk. This register does not include Locally Listed Buildings. The list of heritage assets on this register is mostly fluid with assets being added to and taken off the register from year to year as work is carried out and completed. The major issue that the heritage of the borough is faced with is threat of development, particularly in Conservation Areas and Locally Listed Buildings. The type of development that can be particularly sensitive includes extensions to dwellings, back land development and replacement dwellings within conservation areas and replacement buildings requiring the demolition of Locally Listed buildings outside Conservation Areas. Development adjacent to Heritage Assets can also detrimentally impact the setting of the asset.

More than half of the area of the Borough is designated as Green Belt, including part of the Kent Downs AONB, largely in the south and east, with areas of Metropolitan Open Land and Urban Open Space contributing to the suburban feel.

Generally Bromley is well served in terms of playing fields and outdoor recreation facilities. Our parks and open spaces are what makes Bromley a special place to live, there are over a hundred parks, ranging from large parks like Kelsey Park to smaller neighbourhood recreation grounds. There are some 488 playing pitches of which 293 are for community use; at 1:735 per 1000 adults this ratio is well above the National average of 1.989. There are over 50 Allotments in the Borough, run by the Allotment and Leisure Gardens Federation and in some areas there are long waiting lists for a plot.

This section will also information and issues relating to:

- Street scene and public realm
- Agriculture and diversification
- Water bodies and water courses

Borough wide issues

How can Green Belt and other open space be better protected?

How can the quality of our heritage assets be maintained, and those at risk be improved?

How can we improve biodiversity in the borough?

How can we improve the quality of existing open spaces?

Working in Bromley – the local economy and town centres

Bromley's economy is one of the largest in Outer London, with over 12,000 businesses (approximately 10,000 VAT registered) and an estimated 104,000 jobs.

Approximately two thirds of the jobs in the Borough are taken by residents of the Borough and 55% of the local working population travel out of the borough to work, the majority in Central London.

The major sectors of employment for Bromley are banking, finance and insurance (39%), distribution, hotels and restaurants (25%) and construction (12%).

Almost 90% of Bromley businesses have fewer than 10 employees, although the small numbers of large and medium sized businesses provide the majority of employment within the borough.

There are 11 designated business areas in Bromley, with the main areas concentrated in Penge/Anerley, Biggin Hill and the Cray Corridor. They vary in their accessibility, quality and age of premises and type of occupier. The challenge is to enable these to adapt to the changing needs of industry and commerce. Town centres are another focus for business and employment, with typically smaller business premises across the borough.

The recession, structural changes in the broader economy, and the forecast continuing shift to office based employment impacts on business and work in Bromley. Where will change occur, and how Bromley can adapt and maintain a robust and diverse economy to withstand future recessions are key issues.

Bromley has one of the highest levels of resident economic activity (78%) and while unemployment in Bromley increased during the recession and remains at just over 2.5%, it continues to be significantly below the London figure of 4%.

Bromley has a relatively skilled workforce and good school results, however, as demand is forecast for higher level skills (increasingly level 3, 4 and 5) Bromley will need to improve skills to remain competitive.

The average gross annual pay of those working within the borough is significantly lower than those residents who commute out of the Borough to work. There are five wards where unemployment is above the London average and also average earnings and skill levels are below the borough average.

Bromley's network of town centres, local centres and shopping parades are important in providing a focus for local communities as well as for the provision of facilities and services. However, changing patterns of shopping, and service provision have meant greater levels of vacancies in some areas.

Bromley Town Centre Area Action Plan (BAAP), adopted in 2010, was developed in recognition of the need for a framework and action for Bromley Town Centre to remain competitive. The ambitions set out for Bromley Town Centre are challenging in the current economic climate.

Orpington Town Centre, as the Borough's second town has seen investment in environmental improvements, however, there is scope for strengthening its business and retail offer with further investment and co-ordination.

Beckenham is identified as important for its evening economy in the draft London Plan and is recognised as the Borough's third largest town centre.

Bromley's town centres make an important contribution to the Boroughs economy, eg Penge and West Wickham.

The GLA in 2010 published projections for borough based employment to 2031. Bromley shows initially a projected fall from the 2007 actual of 131,000 jobs to 129,000 in 2011, 128,000 in 2021 and then a projected increase to 137,000 in 2031. London as a whole shows a continued projected increase in jobs but the Bromley pattern is reflected in some other areas, including the adjoining Boroughs of Croydon and Bexley.

There has been a lack of investment in the Outer London Boroughs and under performance compared to their economic potential (highlighted by the Mayor's Outer London Commission in 2009 /10)

Borough wide issues

What does the continuing shift to more office based employment mean for the economy, and in particular, town centres and business areas? How can the Borough maintain a diversity of business uses?

Biggin Hill is identified as a Strategic Outer London Development Centre in the draft London Plan - what are the employment and business opportunities while protecting the environment and quality of life?

How can we make sure high quality premises in appropriate locations are available to support a strong economy?

How can Orpington continue to improve and be promoted to enable it to compete as a major town centre?

How do we retain an adequate supply of local and community shops and essential services across the Borough and what can be done to support local shopping centres and parades to remain viable?

Climate Change and environmental considerations – meeting future challenges

Some places, activities and groups of people are more vulnerable than others to changes in weather and climate. Even though Bromley is not a place of extreme environments, climate change will still have impacts. Areas at risk from flooding may increase, older people and those with certain conditions may suffer greater health problems in periods of very hot or cold weather. Biodiversity can be compromised especially where species are unable to move between habitats as their conditions change. Shortages of water and power may occur when they are in greater demand and if ageing infrastructure begins to fail.

Ways of adapting to climate change can also help improve our local environment and reduce waste and use of precious resources. Improving the efficiency of processes and reducing waste is good for the economy as well as the environment, and improving the condition of homes can positively improve health and reduce utility bills.

Any new development must reach increasingly higher standards under the Building Regulations and there may be additional standards or features which are needed in certain locations or by certain kinds of activity. In London, the boroughs are encouraged to look at whether their local situation demands a unique response to climate change – what is the potential for lower carbon heat and power, and are more stringent standards needed?

Reducing our emission of greenhouse gases – which may contribute to climate change - is a key target for the UK and London, and each borough is required to play their part....

Currently, Bromley uses the policies in the London Plan to guide new development towards more sustainable design and construction. Large developments are required to submit information about how they will improve energy efficiency, reduce the need for heat and power, reduce water usage and include renewable energy where feasible. Bromley does not currently set particular standards itself...

This section will also include information and issues relating to

- Waste planning
- Pollution
- Water conservation and quality

Borough wide issues

Does Bromley need specific local targets for reducing carbon emissions?

Does Bromley need to set local standards for sustainable design and construction and renewable energy?

How can new technology be successfully integrated into the existing and historic environment without having adverse impacts on the character of places?