

WE ARE SHAPING.

WE ARE NEWHAM.



OUR VISION.



What is a vision?

A core part of a Local Plan is its vision which guides the whole Local Plan. It should describe what the borough will be like in the next 15 years and should be both aspirational and realistic: rooted in Newham's challenges and opportunities as well as focusing on our hopes and aspirations.

What are we required to consider and plan for?

The [National Planning Policy Framework \(2021\)](#) requires us to deliver sustainable development, which is summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This requires balancing economic, social and environmental objectives which should be pursued in mutually supportive ways.

The [London Plan \(2021\)](#) has sought to define how sustainable growth should be delivered in London through the creation of Good Growth policies. Growth is not supported at any cost, but only where it delivers more genuinely affordable homes, creates socially integrated and sustainable places and ensures growth brings the best out of existing places while providing new opportunities for communities.

What will inform our vision?

Challenges and opportunities

Newham's challenges and opportunities are outlined in more detail in each of the topic sections below. Below we have highlighted those we consider to be of most significance.

CHALLENGES

- Meeting the borough's new London Plan ten-year housing target of 32,800 new homes.
- Addressing homelessness and housing affordability: 49% of Newham residents are in poverty after housing costs are taken into account.
- Low employment rates for women and minority groups and high numbers of young people who are not in employment, education and/or training.
- Average earnings are £6,000 below the London average; 1 in 3 residents earns less than the Living Wage.
- Ensuring the benefits of growth are distributed across the borough despite the majority of growth opportunities being clustered in only some parts of the borough
- Newham's highstreets are facing significant challenges from changes in how people shop and the planning controls available to safeguard landuses.
- Ensuring we have space and funding to deliver community facilities to meet the needs of all our communities.
- Newham's disproportionate COVID-19 impact: In June 2020, Newham a 30% higher increase in benefit claimants than the London average.
- Increasing Newham's recycling rates – currently the lowest in London
- Green space covers 13.1% of Newham, compared with 39% for London as a whole and the borough has 16% tree cover which is the second lowest in London.
- Newham has the highest death rate attributable to air pollution in England.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Newham is London's second most diverse borough and has one of the youngest populations in London, with an average age of 32.7
- The Royal Docks and Beckton Opportunity Area is one of the biggest opportunity areas in London, and its only Enterprise Zone.
- Growth in the no. of businesses in the last 5 years in Newham has been nearly 80% higher than comparator areas, with business (including micro businesses) and the knowledge economy amongst key growth sectors.
- New development will contribute through development specific interventions and payments of community infrastructure levy to funding facilities and infrastructure in the borough.
- Council landholdings (15th biggest landowner of all London boroughs) and the Council homebuilding programme offer opportunities to deliver.
- Tackling the climate emergency and greening the borough can support the development of green jobs, reduce urban heating and flood risk and create habitats.
- Community facilities, if planned for and resourced, can increase social integration and strengthen our communities: providing us with a sense of belonging and pride.
- Making 15-minute neighbourhoods work in the Newham context, with policies that reflect residents' visions for their neighbourhoods.
- The Royal Docks were once the largest enclosed docks in the world and is 250 acres in size with significant possibilities for leisure, nature, sports and spectacular outlooks.
- Newham will benefit from 5 new accessible Elizabeth Line stations at Stratford, Manor Park, Forest Gate and Maryland and at Custom House.

Towards a Better Newham – Our Recovery and Reorientation Strategy

In response to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Newham's residents, the borough has adopted a recovery and reorientation strategy which outlines a set of principles and delivery pillars to kick start the processes required to recover from the pandemic, as well as to address the structural challenges which were exacerbated and highlighted by the pandemic.

These five principles are:

- 1. A Healthy, Happy and Well Newham**
- 2. Community Wealth Building**
- 3. Brighter Futures – The Best Place for Children and Young People to Thrive**
- 4. Tackling Racism, Inequality and Disproportionality**
- 5. Putting People at the Heart of Everything We Do**

These principles will be delivered through the eight delivery pillars:

1. Our measures of success will be the health, happiness and wellbeing of our residents
2. The Council is committed to enabling every resident under 25 to be safe, happy and cared for, with positive activities to secure their long-term wellbeing
3. The Council will take action so that all residents are supported and enabled to access work and other opportunities in the new economy
4. The Council will assist our residents to be healthy, happy and safe so they are supported during times of recession and are able to thrive in the new economy
5. The Council will create accessible and inclusive neighbourhoods which will provide residents all their social, civic and economic essentials
6. We will become London's greenest local economy
7. The Council will deliver genuinely high-quality and affordable homes for Newham
8. The Council will only welcome investment that secures a Fair Deal and a Fair Economy for Newham



We propose to use the Council's Recovery and Reorientation Strategy to set out the broad parameters for creating sustainable development in Newham. The vision for the Local Plan will provide an illustration of how all forms of development in different parts of the borough can deliver the five principles in line with our eight delivery pillars, to create a fairer, more equal and sustainable borough, in which people have a genuine opportunity to reach their potential and take part in community life.

Table 1 on page 17 illustrates this approach

Table 1

OBJECTIVE	... WILL BE DELIVERED THROUGH...
A Healthy, Happy and Well Newham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-designed 15 minute neighbourhoods which encourage physical activity, active travel and access to infrastructure (including leisure, health facilities and green spaces). • Recognising the importance of health and well-being to ensure we reduce inequalities through a health integrated approach to planning. • Promoting healthy lifestyles at all stages of life. • Creating safer spaces and public realm through the implementation of secured by design and activation principles. • Improving housing quality for all. • Supporting local employment opportunities as a key contributor to improve people's overall health and quality of life.
Community Wealth Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing local job opportunities, education, training and skill development. • Improving range and affordability of employment space. • Increasing access to employment through sustainable transport infrastructure and active travel. • Delivering the utilities and digital infrastructure required. • Creating a greener and cleaner future in Newham which is made up of low carbon, climate resilient neighbourhoods.
Brighter Futures – The Best Place for Children and Young People to Thrive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access to playspace, planning our streetscapes and social infrastructure in pursuit of high quality environments for young people. • Supporting skills and career development in growth sectors. • Protecting, delivering new, and improving access to, education and childcare provision. • Supporting skills and career development to support young people's long term employment prospects in growth sectors e.g. green tech. • Securing wide range of housing to meet all needs, including for care-leavers. • Delivering genuinely affordable and family homes to support families into high quality accommodation across the borough.
Tackling Racism, Inequality and Disproportionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising, celebrating and designing for Newham's diverse communities. • Creating a more equal and affordable borough which increases civic participation and inclusive opportunities for all. • Access to genuine high quality affordable housing for all. • Maximising local inclusive economic opportunities through skill development and job creation. • Improving residents access to opportunities through '15 minute neighbourhoods' and improved physical and social infrastructure across Newham. • Tackling barriers to, and supporting residents, into employment.
Putting People at the Heart of Everything We Do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring there is sufficient physical, social, civic and digital infrastructure as part of inclusive growth and meets the needs of existing and future communities in Newham. • Embedding co-design principles in delivering new development. • Improving access to high streets, community facilities (to enable support networks), and open space, through delivery of 15 minute neighbourhoods to create happier communities. • Ensuring new development improves social integration.

Newham's neighbourhoods

As part of delivering Pillar 5 of our Towards a Better Newham: Recovery and Reorientation Plan, which aims to deliver a network of accessible and inclusive neighbourhoods, we propose to include a vision for each neighbourhood in Newham. The locations of these neighbourhoods and their visions will be developed with residents, through the Characterisation Study.

More about this proposal is included in the Newham Neighbourhoods section of this document.



Turning our vision into policies

All the policies in the Plan will together deliver our vision. However, there are a number of key objectives which run through the plan and which are crucial to delivering the 5 principles of the Recovery and Reorientation Plan. We want to ensure these are given sufficient emphasis in the Local Plan.

This could be through a series of objectives, or we could seek to establish an overarching Reorientation Policy or policies which will highlight the key requirements that every development in Newham will have to deliver to demonstrate they are contributing towards the creation of a happy, healthy and well Newham for all.



You Tell Us

We want the Local Plan to help create a borough where your hopes and aspirations can flourish. We would like to know what you think the vision should include.

- **Should the vision and objectives be framed around the Council's Towards a Better Newham: Recovery and Reorientation Strategy?**
- **Is there anything missing from the vision and from table 1 to ensure we meet Newham's needs?**

We would also be very interested in your answers to the following questions, which will help shape the vision for the Plan.

- What do you think makes Newham special?
- What would make Newham a better place to live? To work or run a business? To grow up in?
- What are your hopes for the future of Newham?
- What are your fears for the future of Newham?

We are also interested in your views about how to best secure the delivery of this vision.

- Should we have one overarching policy which highlights what sustainable growth is in Newham? or
- Should we have a set of objectives and ensure we deliver against the 5 principles and 8 pillars in the relevant policy topics?

