

Royal Borough of Greenwich Local Plan

Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) July 2026

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I Introduction

Purpose of this document

- I.1 The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) assesses the amount and type of infrastructure required to support the levels of growth identified in the Local Plan. The IDP seeks to assess current infrastructure provision in the borough, how well it meets existing needs, and to identify the infrastructure required to support future growth arising from both strategic development sites and incremental increases in population within existing built-up areas. It therefore considers not only the needs generated by new communities, but also the cumulative pressures arising from smaller-scale development. In this context, infrastructure provision is not limited to the delivery of new facilities; it also includes the expansion, upgrading, and more efficient use of existing infrastructure assets. This may, where necessary, involve the reconfiguration and optimisation of public estate to ensure that current infrastructure can better accommodate increased demand and operate more effectively to support sustainable growth.
- I.2 Whilst a broad range of physical, social and green infrastructure is assessed in this IDP, some of these infrastructure items are not assessed to the same extent as others as these are provided and assessed by private companies, therefore the council has no control over them, for example utilities.
- I.3 Appendix I sets out a schedule of priority infrastructure projects, together with indicative costs and potential funding sources, required to support the planned level of growth. In addition, all local authorities must publish an annual Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) by December of each year with details on s106 and CIL contributions including how they have been spent and how they will be spent in the future. Royal Greenwich publishes an Infrastructure Funding Statement annually. The latest Infrastructure Funding Statement (2024/25), published in December 2025, sets out the Council's priorities for spending planning contributions.
- I.4 The IDP will be used to inform preparation of both the Local Plan and the Infrastructure Funding Statement, to communicate infrastructure requirements to developers at the planning application stage, to inform the allocation and spending of s106 and CIL contributions, and to improve partnership working and coordination with infrastructure delivery agencies.

How has this evidence been produced?

- I.5 The information used in this document is drawn from a combination of sources including existing published reports, strategies and evidence base studies as well as directly from discussions with relevant services such as the Integrated Care Board (ICB), emergency services and internal council departments. Where possible, the Council has also liaised with utility providers such as UK Power Networks (UKPN), Southern Gas Networks (SGN) and Thames Water to understand their infrastructure modelling, future investment plans, and anticipated changes in demand arising from growth.

Policy Context

National Policy

- I.6 The overarching purpose of the planning system is to contribute to sustainable development, and the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) sets out the principles of sustainable development. It requires that sufficient provision for infrastructure is made through policies in

the Local Plan. The national [Planning Practice Guidance](#) states that local authorities must identify what infrastructure is required and how it can be funded and brought forward. Local authorities must work with infrastructure providers to take a co-ordinated approach.

- I.7 Under the Planning Act 2008, the government introduced the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL); a planning charge used by Local Authorities to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area. The Royal Borough of Greenwich introduced its [CIL charging schedule](#) in April 2015 and updated it in July 2024. As set out above, the Royal Borough of Greenwich publishes an Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) annually, in line with the CIL Regulations. The IFS provides transparency on the collection and use of CIL and Section 106 contributions and the types of infrastructure they support.

Regional Policy

- I.8 The Mayor produces a spatial development strategy for London, known as the London Plan¹. The Local Plan must be in general conformity with the London Plan.
- I.9 The London Plan sets ten-year borough level housing targets based on land availability and developments that already have permission; additionally, it sets out indicative guidelines for new homes and jobs within identified opportunity areas. Development capacity in opportunity areas is linked to existing or potential improvements in public transport connectivity (for example the DLR extension to Thamesmead), and the timeframes for delivery in opportunity areas often extends over 20 years or more (beyond the 15-year timeframe of Local Plans). Depending on the progress within opportunity areas in unlocking growth potential, the majority of potential housing growth may be outside the ten-year period on which housing targets are based.
- I.10 The IDP therefore considers growth beyond the 15-year time frame of the Local Plan to take account of the potential infrastructure needs in these opportunity areas, whilst recognising that these growth projections may be revised several times before certain infrastructure is delivered. For example, infrastructure needs are better understood in areas such as Kidbrooke, Woolwich and Greenwich Peninsula where delivery is already underway, whereas infrastructure needs in opportunity areas such as Charlton Riverside and Thamesmead will need refining over time.
- I.11 The London Plan identifies and supports London-wide infrastructure necessary to support the proposed level of growth across London. The infrastructure requirements are informed by a robust evidence base.
- I.12 Royal Greenwich has one of the highest housing delivery targets in London, with a requirement to provide 2,824 homes annually under the London Plan, alongside capacity for 21,000 jobs across its designated Opportunity Areas.
- I.13 The Draft Local Plan will focus on refining the approach to balancing competing development needs and accommodating higher projected level of growth within these areas.

Local Policy

¹ [The London Plan 2021 | London City Hall](#)

- I.14 The Core Strategy with Detailed Policies Local Plan² (adopted July 2014) sets out the overarching vision for the Royal Borough as well as guiding decisions on planning applications. As set out in 2025 Local Development Scheme (LDS)³, the Royal Borough is currently undertaking a comprehensive review of the Local Plan. Once adopted, the Local Plan will replace existing planning policy documents and will set out the overarching strategy, site allocations and development management policies needed to support growth and deliver the Council's vision and objectives across the borough.
- I.15 The Local Plan is informed by evidence base documents which provide robust evidence of development needs, pressures and issues within the borough. The IDP forms part of this evidence base.
- I.16 Additionally, as part of the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR)⁴, RBG identifies and updates a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of five years' worth of housing against the London Plan housing requirement. The five-year supply is set within the context of the 15-year housing trajectory, which is updated on an annual basis and provides full details of the large sites (0.25ha and above) included in the trajectory, and their indicative capacity and phasing. The IDP is based on the most recent housing growth projections and will help to identify sufficient infrastructure to support the new higher level of anticipated growth as identified in the new London Plan.
- I.17 In the short term/medium term infrastructure requirements are generally understood and funded. This is because the majority of growth in the borough comes from large strategic sites which include infrastructure provision.
- I.18 Over the longer term, there is a decreasing amount of certainty where development extends beyond the plan period, and it is not possible to identify all infrastructure requirements at the outset. For example, different service providers will plan services over different time periods (some short term and some longer term), models of provision will change over time and new information and data will become available all of which will impact infrastructure requirements. As such, the NPPF states that anticipated rates of delivery and infrastructure requirements should therefore be kept under review.

Future Housing Growth and key infrastructure requirements

- I.19 The draft Royal Greenwich Local Plan⁵ sets out a clear spatial strategy for growth, directing the majority of new development to a series of defined place-based spatial areas, including Greenwich Peninsula, Charlton, Woolwich, Thamesmead and Abbey Wood. Other spatial areas will accommodate a more limited level of growth over the plan period.
- I.20 Growth is focused within these areas through a dedicated "Places" chapter, which establishes area-specific policies and identifies 54 site allocations to guide the location, scale and form of development over the plan period. This approach concentrates development in accessible, previously developed and opportunity locations, supports regeneration and infrastructure investment, and helps manage change sensitively in established residential areas, ensuring

² [The Local Plan | Royal Borough of Greenwich](#)

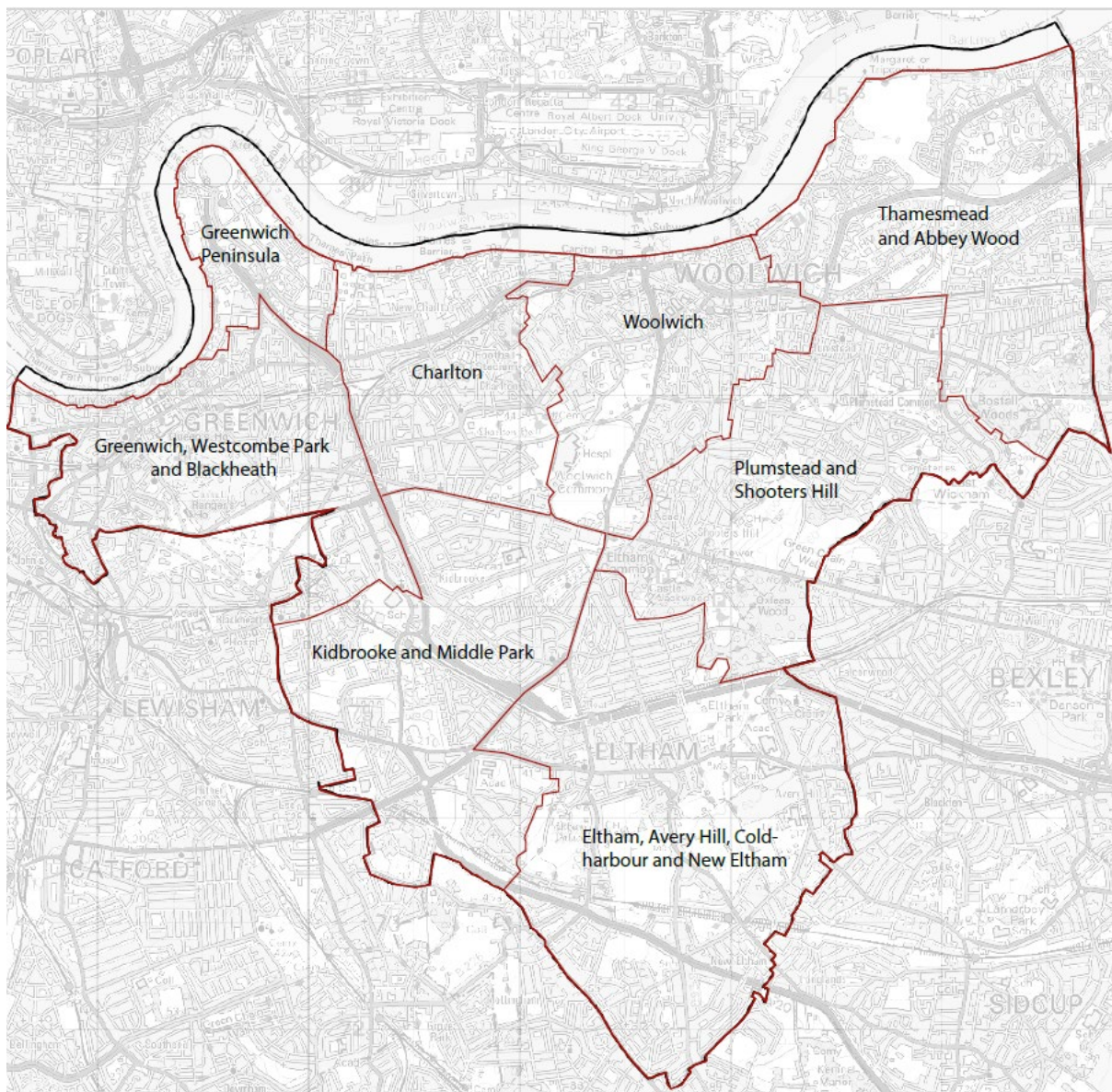
³ [Local Development Scheme](#)

⁴ [Authority Monitoring Reports | Royal Borough of Greenwich](#)

⁵ [The Local Plan | Drafting our new Local Plan | Royal Borough of Greenwich](#)

development is delivered in the most sustainable and strategic locations across the borough. The spatial areas can be seen in Figure I below.

- I.21 The housing growth projections underpinning the IDP reflect recent planning permissions across the spatial areas, alongside the outcomes of detailed capacity studies undertaken to inform site allocations. The figures set out below for each spatial area are indicative, but growth may be higher where further suitable sites come forward in line with the Plan's policies.



- I.22 **Charlton** – This spatial area falls within an Opportunity Area identified within the London Plan. In the Royal Greenwich Local Plan, the area is expected to deliver approximately 8,000 homes and 1,000 additional jobs, with some development already underway. Its transformation will be driven by the promotion of business growth alongside new residential development, supported by the timely delivery of essential physical and social infrastructure to enable sustainable communities.

- I.23 **Greenwich Peninsula** - This area forms part of an Opportunity Area designated in the London Plan. Outline planning permission has been granted for 15,000 new homes on the Peninsula GLA/Knight Dragon site, with a number of other major schemes currently under construction on the western side of the Peninsula. Additional development opportunities have also been identified across the wider area, and together these sites are expected to deliver around 17,000 homes across the spatial area as a whole. Unlike other parts of the borough, much of the Peninsula was previously derelict or underutilised land, meaning there was very limited existing development. As a result, the infrastructure requirements in this area are significantly higher, as new physical, social and green infrastructure must be delivered largely from scratch to support the scale of planned growth, rather than building upon existing infrastructure networks serving established communities. Some infrastructure has already been provided to support the housing that has already been delivered on Greenwich Peninsula such as North Greenwich station on the Jubilee Line, an all through school, linear park and various cultural and community facilities.
- I.24 **Thamesmead and Abbey Wood** - This spatial area includes part of a designated Opportunity Area supported by an adopted OAPF (2020); the Opportunity Area also extends into the London Borough of Bexley. Growth in Thamesmead and Abbey Wood is driven by regeneration, the proposed DLR extension, bus transit proposals, and Elizabeth line connectivity. The potential “New Town” status of Thamesmead announced in March 2026 supports up to 15,000 homes, including around 5,750 within the plan period. Elsewhere, some development is already under way, notably at Lombard Square (up to 1,964 homes), with Local Plan allocations expected to deliver a further 2,130 homes.
- I.25 **Woolwich** – The area has seen significant development, particularly at Royal Arsenal Riverside, where 1,242 of the 2,005 approved homes have been delivered. The area falls partly within a designated Opportunity Area and is expected to continue to grow. Local Plan allocations are anticipated to deliver around 8,000 homes, including the redevelopment of Woolwich Barracks.
- I.26 **Greenwich, Westcombe Park and Blackheath** - A significant amount of new development has already been delivered in the Creekside area of Greenwich, therefore the ability of the area to support further development is limited. Site allocations identified in the Local Plan are expected to deliver 1,026 homes.
- I.27 **Kidbrooke and Middle Park** - As with the Greenwich, Westcombe Park and Blackheath area, redevelopment in Kidbrooke is well underway. The focus for the remaining sites is ensuring that they complement Kidbrooke Village as well as providing adequate social infrastructure provision to support their new residents. Local Plan allocations are expected to deliver around 1,092 homes.
- I.28 **Eltham, Avery Hill, Coldharbour and New Eltham** - Similar to Greenwich, Westcombe Park and Blackheath, this spatial area will experience relatively limited growth over the plan period. Development is concentrated on two allocated sites, which are expected to deliver 140 homes.
- I.29 **Plumstead and Shooters Hill** – This spatial area is expected to accommodate the lowest level of growth over the plan period. While some small-scale incremental development may

come forward, there is only one site specifically allocated for development within this spatial area, which is anticipated to deliver approximately 60 homes.

- I.30 The difference in the scale, type and timing of growth across the borough will impact the infrastructure requirements needed in each area. Some areas, identified as Opportunity Areas in the London Plan, are expected to accommodate significantly higher levels of development and therefore require more substantial infrastructure provision. In locations such as Kidbrooke, much of the planned development has already been delivered and redevelopment has been supported by the provision of new infrastructure, for example a new school and health hub.
- I.31 In Woolwich, most of the remaining growth is expected to take place around the town centre, where there is already a strong base of existing infrastructure, including the Elizabeth Line, DLR and national rail station and the recently delivered leisure centre. However, further infrastructure will still be required to support continued growth. Unlike larger, masterplanned areas, the bulk of Woolwich's growth outside Royal Arsenal Riverside is being delivered through a series of individual development sites across the town centre, which places different pressures on existing infrastructure networks and requires ongoing upgrades and expansion.
- I.32 In contrast, areas such as Thamesmead, Charlton and Greenwich Peninsula involve the transformation of much larger areas of land, often with limited or less suitable existing infrastructure. These locations require more comprehensive intervention, including the delivery of entirely new infrastructure alongside the expansion and reconfiguration of existing provision. While Greenwich Peninsula is under construction and some infrastructure has already been delivered, its historic role as largely vacant or underutilised land, combined with the scale of development still to come, means that a significant amount of infrastructure is still required. Charlton similarly involves a transition from predominantly industrial and retail uses to a mixed-use neighbourhood, necessitating new infrastructure to support residential communities. Thamesmead will undergo an extensive transformation, encompassing both the redevelopment of the town centre and surrounding neighbourhoods. Although some infrastructure exists, it is often not of sufficient capacity, quality or configuration to support future growth, requiring substantial upgrading, expansion and the provision of new infrastructure to meet the needs of both existing and future communities.
- I.33 In other parts of the borough, such as Eltham, growth is expected to be more incremental and dispersed rather than concentrated in large-scale regeneration areas. In these locations, the focus is on ensuring that existing infrastructure is maintained, improved and, where necessary, modestly expanded to accommodate gradual increases in population, rather than delivering wholly new infrastructure networks.
- I.34 The key infrastructure requirements for the Borough's principal growth areas—Charlton, Greenwich Peninsula, Thamesmead and Woolwich—are outlined below.

Key infrastructure requirements for Charlton:

- New east–west public transport corridor through Charlton Riverside
- Enhanced bus provision and connectivity to stations
- Walking/cycling routes, active travel infrastructure and improved permeability and connectivity, particularly to Charlton station and the Thames Path

- A new health & community hub in Charlton Riverside (approximately 1,000sqm of floor space with 10-12 primary care rooms and other supporting uses)
- Station area improvements including major public realm upgrades particularly around Woolwich Road and the station gateway
- 6FE All-through school
- Integration into borough-wide district heat network
- Improved and raised Thames River path (flood resilience) and an area-wide SuDS Strategy
- New play spaces, parks and green corridors including creation of circa 33,000sqm new North to South linear park and circa 45,000sqm of new public realm.

Key Infrastructure Requirements for Greenwich Peninsula:

- District heat network on Greenwich Peninsula West
- Improvements to river services including new river pier stop
- Gateway Junction improvements including improvements to access A102
- North Greenwich bus station redevelopment/upgrade
- Cycle facility works and Thames path upgrade
- Swimming pool, small running track and MUGA
- New 2x 2FE primary schools
- A new health & community hub in Charlton Riverside (approximately 1,000sqm of floor space with 10-12 primary care rooms and other supporting uses)

Key Infrastructure Requirements for Thamesmead

- DLR extension to Thamesmead (planned ~2032/33)
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) links (Woolwich–Thamesmead–Abbey Wood)
- Cycleway 4 extension and active travel routes
- Create Thamesmead North District Heat Network
- Flood risk resilience and mitigation to address drainage issues particularly regarding Marsh Dyke and Southmere Lake
- 3.5 × 3FE primary schools
- New or expanded health hub(s) and reconfiguration of existing floorspace
- Replacement of Thamesmere Leisure Centre with upgraded multi-functional hub
- Cultural infrastructure and community facilities to support regeneration
- New green space including improvements to Birchmere Park

Key Infrastructure Requirements for Woolwich

- Woolwich District Heat Network
- Elizabeth Line second entrance at Woolwich station to improve accessibility and capacity
- Bus Transit link between Woolwich, Thamesmead and Abbey Wood to improve connectivity
- Continued delivery of cycle routes including strategic connections to Thamesmead and wider network (e.g. Cycleway 4)
- Expansion and integration of river services at Woolwich to enhance multi-modal transport connectivity
- Redevelopment and expansion of Queen Elizabeth Hospital including Emergency department, wards, outpatient space and clinical capacity

- Expansion or reconfiguration of primary care provision (e.g. Ferryview Health Centre) to meet population growth
- Address deficiency in publicly accessible open space (currently below recommended benchmark) through new provision and improvements

2 Population Projections

- 2.1 Projected housing growth as set out above is what drives population growth; increasing the number of homes in an area in turn increases the number of people living there. The assessment of infrastructure requirements is therefore underpinned by the expectations of population growth. The level and type of infrastructure needed is not simply defined by the size of the population but the characteristics of the population such as age, ethnicity and deprivation levels.
- 2.2 The GLA housing-led population projections (central trend) are used to consider how the population will grow in the borough. These are based on the expected housing development in the borough in the period up to 2050 and are informed by the 2017 Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). The 2017 SHLAA forms the basis of the housing targets in the London Plan.
- 2.3 The most recent official GLA estimates from 2024 (2022-based 15-year projections) show that Royal Greenwich has a population of 299,436⁶. This is an increase of 3.58% since the 2021 census was undertaken, following a 13.5% growth in population between 2011 and 2021⁷. In the recent years, the population growth in Greenwich has increased compared to the average amongst the UK, Greenwich's population has increased by 3.9% in 2024 compared to the national average of 3.7%⁸
- 2.4 The latest GLA projections (2024) suggest there are currently 116,069 households in Greenwich, an increase of 2.09% since the 2017 projections. This indicates that the general population has grown at a faster pace than the number of households in Greenwich and as a result the household size has increased from 2.48 to 2.55 persons per household.
- 2.5 By 2040, the population in Royal Greenwich is set to reach 362,052 an increase of over 20% from 2021 as can be seen in Figure 2 below.

⁶ [London's Population Projections](#)

⁷ [Population and household estimates, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics](#)

⁸ [Local indicators for Greenwich \(E09000011\) - ONS](#)

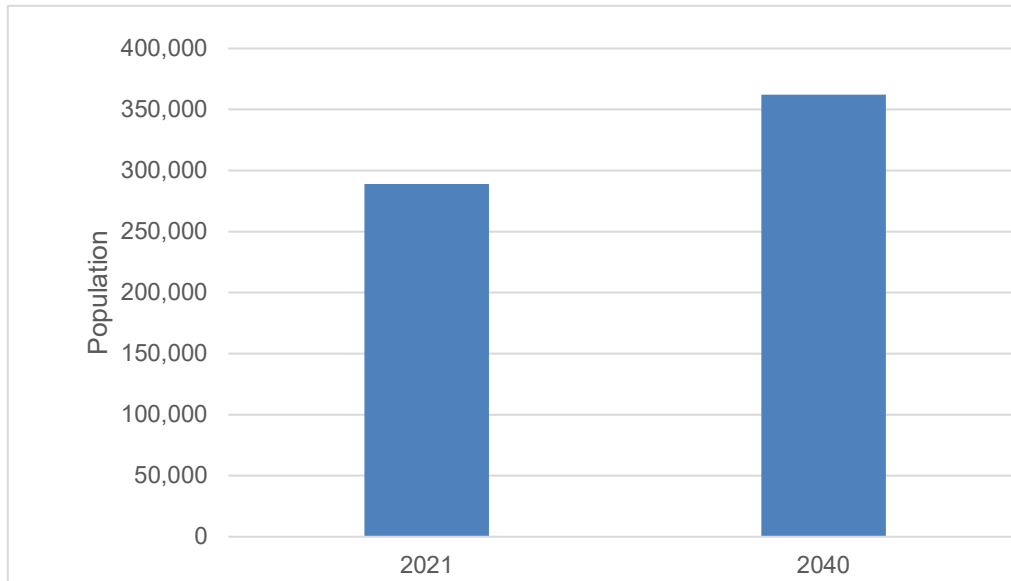


Figure 2 Population increase in Royal Greenwich 2021-2040 (Projected)

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Physical infrastructure requirements in the borough include digital connectivity, energy, transport, waste and water and drainage. Most physical infrastructure is provided by private service providers and control over future provision is outside of the Council's control. The key infrastructure requirements for each section are outlined in Table I below.

Table I Physical Infrastructure key requirements

Planned Infrastructure	
Digital Connectivity	Enhance mobile connectivity & 5G across the borough
	Fibre to the Premises (FttP) rollout across the borough to improve digital connectivity
Energy	Decarbonise electricity and gas supply
	Support development of District Heat Networks across the borough
	Decentralised Heat Transmission pipeline from west (Thamesmead and Abbey Wood) of the borough to the existing areas of high demand (e.g Greenwich Peninsula)
	Retrofit Council owned housing stock and new Council homes provision will aim for zero carbon
Transport	Greenwich Town Centre Liveable Neighbourhood
	Strategic Cycle Routes to be delivered
	DLR extension to Thamesmead Waterfront (funding now approved)
	Cycleway 4
	Bus Rapid Transit between Woolwich to Abbey Wood via Thamesmead (in progress to be delivered by TfL)
	Reduce reliance on cars through schemes such as Neighbourhood Management Schemes, boroughwide 20mph and introducing more Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs)
Waste	Continuing to safeguard existing waste sites.
	Expanding food waste collection and upgrading bin stores, signage and recycling facilities across the borough.
	Re-procuring waste disposal services and preparing for adaptation to future legislation and regulatory changes such as the government's Simpler Recycling mandate.
Water and Drainage	Work with Thames Water to ensure a continued supply of water to manage population growth by reducing leakage and encouraging water efficiency before finding alternative sources of supply

Work with the Environment Agency to manage flood risk across the borough in accordance with their T2100 Plan. This indicates maintenance of the Thames Barrier is the key requirement in the short term until later in the century where significant changes to flood defences will be required

Reduce the risk of surface water flooding in line with the Local Flood Risk Strategy Action Plan.

3 Digital Connectivity

- 3.1 Fast and resilient digital connectivity is increasingly regarded as essential to support a strong local economy, to meet resident's needs and to enable the delivery of the next generation of public services. Improving Digital Connectivity allows digital data to be transferred more rapidly, enabling new forms of digital communication. This includes data for business, domestic and leisure use, such as films, games, complex drawings, business models, or reports, which can be uploaded/downloaded by households and businesses onto computers or mobile devices as well as remote feeds from sensors/CCTV for use by Council services. With the rapid increase in demand for data along with private sector investment, the need for better digital connectivity has changed considerably.
- 3.2 Ofcom's 2025 Connected Nations Report found that mobile data consumption in the UK reached over 1.2 billion GB each month – an 18% increase year-on-year – with 5G data use growing by more than half in a single year⁹.
- 3.3 An increasing number of cities are turning to 'smarter' approaches in planning their future, in creating a modern infrastructure and in delivering services. Ultra-fast and super-fast broadband has become a source of competitive advantage in creating more dynamic business and social environment and is also necessary for the innovative delivery of services, particularly considering the upcoming Public Switched Telephone Network switch off, which will require many services to move to digital connectivity.
- 3.4 The Council is also committed to improving 5G mobile connectivity across the borough. Ofcom's 2025 Connected Nations Report shows that 5G outdoor coverage now reaches 97% of the UK from at least one operator, with standalone 5G – which unlocks the full performance benefits of the technology – covering 83% of the population. The Government's target is nationwide standalone 5G coverage by 2030. On mobile connectivity, Royal Greenwich faces pressures common to London as a whole. The upgrade of infrastructure to 5G, combined with capacity constraints and a significant number of notices to quit on existing mast sites, means that mobile operators will need to replace or upgrade a substantial number of masts across London in the coming years. Vodafone Three alone anticipates that 30–40 mast upgrades in Greenwich will require planning consent, with similar numbers expected from other operators including EE/MBNL and VMO2. Many of these next-generation masts are larger than existing structures and will require planning approval. The Council recognises that processing these applications efficiently and working proactively with operators on a coordinated local strategy, is important to ensuring that Royal Greenwich benefits from improved mobile capacity and full 5G deployment.

Existing provision

Broadband Connectivity

- 3.5 Ofcom monitors UK performance against its leading European cities and the last report was published in 2023¹⁰. This report shows a mixed picture for the UK compared to Italy, Spain, Germany and France – while the UK ranks 11th out of all the countries in this report, which

⁹ <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/siteassets/resources/documents/research-and-data/multi-sector/infrastructure-research/connected-nations-2025/connected-nations-uk-report-2025.pdf?v=407947>

¹⁰ [International Broadband Scorecard 2023: interactive data](#)

shows that only 47% of households in the UK are served by Full Fibre compared to Spain with 91% and France with 73% . However, the House of Lords report ‘Make or break; The UK’s Digital Future’ highlighted that when compared internationally, London’s performance is one of the poorest among European capitals (26th out of 33). In addition, the Financial Times Broadband Report found that connections are very poor in the centre of main cities including London, Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham.

- 3.6 According to the Mayor of London’s Connectivity Map, superfast broadband is available to 98.35% of premises across London, gigabit broadband to 90.38%, and full-fibre broadband to 75.96%. Royal Greenwich has a Gigabit availability at 89.10% and Full Fibre availability at 76.90% which is slightly higher than the London average. The map also illustrates that in areas of unavailability 11 0.40% of Royal Greenwich cannot access broadband of 30 megabits per second compared to 1% in London overall.
- 3.7 More granular data from Ofcom and Think Broadband (July 2025) shows that within Royal Greenwich there are between 129,000 and 136,000 premises in total, with Full Fibre (FTTP) available to 77–79% of premises and gigabit-capable services reaching 89–91%. The two sources are broadly consistent; minor differences arise from how multi-occupancy buildings such as student accommodation and dense office blocks are counted. The number of premises currently without access to any gigabit-capable service stands at between 12,285 (Think Broadband) and 14,102 (Ofcom), representing approximately 9–11% of all premises in the borough. A third source, DSIT’s Open Market Review, places this figure higher at 18,759, roughly 13% of premises due to its broader definition of premises, which counts individual units within multi-occupancy buildings rather than the building as a whole. By 2028, Ofcom and Think Broadband project that private sector investment will reduce the number of unserved premises to between 7,490 (Ofcom) and 8,189 (Think Broadband), corresponding to approximately 6% of premises — an improvement of 3–5 percentage points on current coverage. However, DSIT notes that 7,919 premises are currently classified as "under review", meaning investment plans exist but lack firm contractual commitment. Addressing the residual gap is estimated to require approximately £4.2m of targeted capital investment.

Digital Innovation and Data Infrastructure

- 3.8 The [Greenwich Smart City Strategy 2015](#) and Digital Connectivity Strategy 2019, focused on how Royal Greenwich can drive and enable improvements in connectivity. Royal Greenwich aspires to be recognised as London’s ‘smart’ and innovative borough able to deliver resource efficient, low carbon, healthy and liveable neighbourhoods. A smart city is a collaborative, connected and responsive city that integrates digital technologies and uses data to respond to resident’s needs. It involves harnessing digital innovation to solve challenges in areas such as housing, transport, adult social care, environment and skills. Many of the principles set out in these strategies have been incorporated in subsequent corporate strategies such as Our Greenwich and delivered through the Council’s Innovation Company - DG Cities and joint venture company Digital Greenwich Connect.
- 3.9 As the national, regional and local economy evolves and adapts to opportunities and changing needs, data centres have emerged as a significant driver of digital infrastructure investment. To function, data centres require substantial, high-capacity fibre connections, and their

¹¹ Areas of unavailability are areas where properties cannot access speeds of two, five, 10 and 30 megabits per second.

presence in an area frequently leads to the laying of new fibre routes and upgrades to the existing network infrastructure. London is the largest data centre market in Europe, and the rapid growth of AI is accelerating demand further. Training and running large AI models requires enormous bandwidth and ultra-low latency connections, pushing operators to invest in ever more capable fibre networks in areas where they locate.

- 3.10 The co-location of data centres with existing or planned fibre infrastructure creates an opportunity for Royal Greenwich. Where data centre operators invest in new dark fibre or high-capacity connections to serve their own facilities, there is potential to negotiate access to spare capacity, or to require that new routes are built in a way that can be extended to serve businesses and residents in the surrounding area. The Council will seek to realise these benefits through DG Connect, which is already working to deliver full-fibre connectivity across the borough. DG Connect is well-placed to engage directly with data centre operators and network providers, securing arrangements that integrate new data centre-driven fibre investment into the borough-wide connectivity programme and ensuring that infrastructure built to serve commercial facilities also strengthens the wider digital network available to residents and businesses in Royal Greenwich.
- 3.11 The Council is also actively seeking to maximise the use of its assets to improve mobile and fixed connectivity across the Borough. This includes assets such as the Greenwich and Woolwich Foot Tunnels, street furniture and council owned land and buildings. It also wishes to ensure that all new developments are well serviced by digital connectivity and that infrastructure is in place in advance of new development.

Future Provision

- 3.12 Improved digital connectivity and digital infrastructure will be essential to support the level of growth identified in the Local Plan, to attract investment, and to create quality jobs locally. Wherever possible, the Royal Borough of Greenwich will take a proactive role to facilitate earlier investment in upgraded connectivity in the borough than the private sector may deliver on its own.

Broadband Connectivity

- 3.13 The Royal Borough of Greenwich is seeking to provide businesses and residents with a fibre (fixed) and mobile connectivity that underpins a modern society. DG Connect — the Council's joint venture with a private sector infrastructure provider — is delivering Fibre to the Premises (FttP) infrastructure across the borough. This infrastructure is delivering 1Gbps speeds to both residents and businesses, radically improving digital connectivity and supporting the digital delivery of council services. Phase 1 is to be focused on Woolwich before rolling out across the borough. Royal Greenwich is also seeking to improve mobile connectivity.

Smart City Innovation

- 3.14 Advances in technology are enabling a new generation of services that require high-speed connectivity and robust energy infrastructure. This digital evolution is particularly relevant to Greenwich, which has established itself as a premier hub for data centres and future transport systems. Central to this is the Smart Mobility Living Lab (SMLL), a £20M National Centre of Excellence and testbed for connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs). Headquartered in Woolwich, the SMLL provides the advanced roadside monitoring and control room infrastructure necessary to manage complex, data-heavy transport services.

- 3.15 The test bed provides a real-world environment where vehicles manufacturers, software developers and service providers, will be able to monitor vehicles operating under current legislative controls and strict safety requirements on the existing road network. The passage of the Automated Vehicles Act 2024¹² provided a clearer regulatory framework for the deployment of self-driving vehicles in the UK. In 2025, Waymo – the world’s leading autonomous vehicle operator – announced active testing on London roads, with commercial passenger services anticipated in the near term. This wider commercial momentum reinforces the strategic value of Greenwich’s long-standing position as a national centre for autonomous vehicle testing, and the SMLL remains well-placed to bring investment, jobs and innovation to the borough.
- 3.16 The Council is planning to apply the learning from the work outlined above, and work from other cities, to create exemplar smart, resilient & sustainable neighbourhoods in the Borough.

¹² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2024/10/contents>

4 Energy

- 4.1 In June 2019, the UK became the first major economy in the world to pass laws to end its contribution to global warming by 2050. The new legislation requires the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, compared with the previous target of at least 80% reduction from 1990 levels. The mayor of London has exceeded this target through setting a 2030 Net Zero target for London in 2021.¹³
- 4.2 Following the introduction of new legislation, the Royal Borough of Greenwich declared a Climate Change Emergency and aims to become carbon neutral by 2030. In order to achieve this ambition, the Royal Borough has produced a Carbon Neutral Plan along with several Carbon Neutral Action Plans to set out steps to be taken to reduce the borough's carbon emissions.

Existing Provision

Electricity Transmission

- 4.3 Transmission electricity infrastructure is maintained by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) in England and Wales and distribution infrastructure is owned and maintained by UKPN.
- 4.4 NGET operates the high voltage electricity transmission network across Great Britain and is responsible for maintaining supply to meet demand. National Grid does not distribute electricity to homes and businesses; this is the role of distributor companies. The electricity distributor in Royal Greenwich is UK Power Networks (UKPN).
- 4.5 To facilitate competition in the supply and generation of electricity, National Grid must offer connection to any proposed generator, major industry or Distribution Network Operator (DNO) who wishes to generate electricity or requires a high voltage electricity supply. Often proposals for new electricity projects involve transmission reinforcements remote from the generating site, such as new overhead lines or new development at substations. If there are significant demand increases across a local distribution electricity network area, then the local Distribution Network Operator may seek reinforcements at an existing substation or a new grid supply point. In addition, National Grid may undertake development works at its existing substations to ensure compliance with connection standards and meet changing patterns of generation and supply.

Gas Transmission

- 4.6 National Gas Transmission plc (National Gas in short), previously called National Grid Gas plc, is the company which owns and operates the National Transmission System for gas throughout England, Scotland and Wales. This system comprises approximately 5,000 miles of pipeline, more than 60 compressors at 21 compressor sites, and more than 500 above-ground

¹³ Mayor of London Local Area Energy Planning, 2026: <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/better-infrastructure/infrastructure-coordination/planning-service/local-area-energy-planning-london?ac-230032=230029>

installations. This system connects to major end users such as power stations, large industrial plants and storage sites as well as to the four Gas Distribution Networks (GDNs) which transport gas to homes and businesses across the country, and to interconnectors which transport gas to/from other European countries and Ireland.¹⁴

- 4.7 National Gas has a duty to develop and maintain an efficient co-ordinated and economical transmission system for the conveyance of gas, and to respond to requests for new gas supplies in certain circumstances. As with electricity transmission, National Gas does not distribute gas to homes and businesses, this is the role of distribution companies which in Royal Greenwich is Southern Gas Networks (SGN).
- 4.8 New gas transmission infrastructure developments (pipelines and associated installations) are periodically required to meet increases in demand and changes in patterns of supply. Developments to the network are as a result of specific connection requests (for example power stations) and requests for additional capacity on the network from gas shippers. Generally, network developments to provide supplies to the local gas distribution network are because of overall demand growth in a region rather than site-specific developments.

Energy Consumption

- 4.9 Energy consumption in Royal Greenwich is fairly typical, ranking 17th largest consumption out of 33 London Boroughs. As can be seen in Table 2 below, the largest amount of energy is used within residents' homes (37%) followed by industry and commercial uses (30%) and then transport (30%).¹⁵

Table 2 Energy usage in Royal Greenwich 2023

Type of Use	Energy consumption (KWh)	Percentage of total
Domestic	1,350,161,154	37%
Commercial and industrial	1,196,033,892	33%
Transport	1,065,647,597	30%
Grand Total	3,611,842,643	100%

- 4.10 London Energy and Greenhouse Gas Inventory (LEGGI)'s latest available data (2023) indicates that the majority of domestic energy in the Royal Borough comes from gas (70.6%) followed by electricity (26.1%). This trend is also the case for the industrial and commercial sector with 41.6% energy coming from gas, and 36.1% coming from electricity, though this trend was less extreme for this sector as oil also produced 26.9% of the energy used. For transport, the

¹⁴ National Gas website. 2026: <https://www.nationalgas.com/>

¹⁵ London Energy and Greenhouse Gas Inventory (LEGGI) data 2023: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-energy-and-greenhouse-gas-inventory-leggi-2ko63/>

majority of energy consumption comes from fossil fuels for road transport at 90.8%, followed by electricity use for railways (4.8%) and then roads (2.2%).

- 4.11 The Royal Borough of Greenwich emitted 2.9% of London's total CO₂ emissions in 2023, with fairly even emissions from its transport (35%), industrial and commercial (32%) and domestic (32%) sectors.

Future Energy Provision

- 4.12 As set out in the [Mayor's Environment Strategy](#), the vast majority of London's energy demand (approximately 94 per cent) is currently sourced from outside of the city. London's zero carbon scenario is linked to the decarbonisation of the UK's electricity and gas grids because there is limited space within London to produce renewable energy. In recent years, the amount of carbon produced by electricity has rapidly reduced due to the increased use of renewable and nuclear sources; these low carbon sources of energy have accounted for more than half of UK energy generation since 2017. In 2024, 73.8% of electricity generated in Great Britain came from renewable and nuclear sources.¹⁶
- 4.13 However, a lack of clear government strategy on the future of gas has led to uncertainty on the wider approach to the long-term decarbonisation of heat and this is one of the major challenges in realising a zero-carbon future. As set out in the Mayor's environment strategy, London will therefore develop a decentralised energy system that is flexible and reduce heat demand through making our buildings more energy efficient.
- 4.14 The majority of energy that serves the borough is privately owned and the provision of this infrastructure is largely outside of the Royal Borough's control. It is therefore difficult to calculate future needs of energy infrastructure in line with the projected population growth. In addition, energy providers do not plan infrastructure on a borough by borough basis but at the regional level.
- 4.15 However, in some Strategic Development Locations where there are supply issues with planned development capacity, such as Charlton Riverside and Thamesmead, Royal Greenwich is working proactively with major landowners and developers to facilitate discussion with relevant energy companies to establish future energy and infrastructure requirements within these areas.
- 4.16 The below summarises what electricity and gas providers are doing to decarbonise the energy system regionally and UK wide, and the actions that the Council is taking to ensure that new development is carbon neutral.

National and regional energy infrastructure projects

- 4.17 The National Grid has a number of infrastructure projects within London and involving the wider electricity network to decarbonise the electricity system and is investing over £30bn

¹⁶ Energy Trends Report September 2025, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-trends-september-2025>

between 2025 and 2029 in projects to support these aims.¹⁷ The National Grid will also put in place projects to increase the capacity of the grid, as demand for electricity is expected to increase by 50% by 2035 and double by 2050, as energy for heating and transport is decarbonised.¹⁸

- 4.18 Starting in 2011, phase I of the £2+ billion project to build a network of deep underground tunnels across London to house high voltage electricity cables was completed in 2017. The second phase, stretching from Wimbledon to Crayford, across a section of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, began in 2020 and is due to complete in 2026.¹⁹ This project is required to replace the existing shallow underground cabling, which is reaching the end of its operational life, and it will expand the network capacity in order to meet London's growing electricity demand as well as reducing future disruption when maintenance is required to the network as this will now take place deep underground.
- 4.19 Following a successful trial of high-temperature, low-sag (HTLS) overhead cables, which replace conventional conductors with similar sized conductors allowing more power to be transported without strengthening or rebuilding the pylons holding them, in the 2010s,²⁰ this technology is now being rolled out across the UK to increase electricity transmission capacity.
- 4.20 National Grid will also continue to integrate renewable energy plants and wind-farms into the grid through new connection points and cables, including the connection of several large battery systems for storing green energy. In 2024, the National Grid south Wales teams also completed connection work in the Pembroke 400kV substation to make the site ready for the energisation in the new year of Greenlink, a new 500MW interconnector between the UK and Ireland.²¹ In 2023, National Grid announced the switching on of the Viking Link – the world's longest land and subsea interconnector, which enables the sharing of green electricity between Denmark and the UK in order to improve energy security for both countries.²²
- 4.21 Currently, around 85% of homes in the UK rely on gas for heat.²³ If the UK is going to meet the target of net zero carbon by 2050 then greener forms of energy must be used, such as biomethane or hydrogen or switching to electricity generated from renewables.

¹⁷ National Grid. The Great Grid Upgrade. 2026: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade/whats-happening>
¹⁸ ibid.

¹⁹ London Power Tunnels webpage, National Grid, 2026: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/london-power-tunnels>

²⁰ Energy Networks Association, Trial & Performance Assessment of ACCR Conductor (3M), 2011-2014: https://smarter.energynetworks.org/projects/nia_nget0067?utm

²¹ National Grid, Connections: what we've delivered in 2024. 2024: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/connections-what-weve-delivered-2024?utm>

²² National Grid. National Grid announces commercial operations of Viking Link – the world's longest land and subsea interconnector. 2026: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/national-grid-announces-commercial-operations-viking-link-worlds-longest-land-and-subsea>

²³ Gov.uk. Hydrogen Heating: overview. 2024: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hydrogen-heating-overview/hydrogen-heating-overview--2>

- 4.22 SGN focuses on improving the sustainability of its network in southern England through upgrading infrastructure to lower emissions and boost performance. The proposed investment programme from 2025 will commit £1.8 billion to replace nearly 5,000 km of metallic mains with plastic pipes that are safer, reduce emissions and can transport green (hydrogen or biomethane) gas, and £23 million of investment in projects to increase the amount of biomethane in the network and save at least 1,100KtCO₂e per year. SGN has set a target of supplying one million homes with biomethane gas by 2031.²⁴
- 4.23 SGN has also undertaken a significant body of work as part of the Comprehensive Formal Assessment (CFA) process for hydrogen to help demonstrate how hydrogen gas could be transported safely for use by consumers in terms of ensuring network integrity and efficiency, consumer readiness and mitigation of risks from large-scale decarbonisation.²⁵ As part of this work, SGN repurposed a 30 km pipeline between Grangemouth and Granton in Scotland to carry hydrogen gas. This illustrates the compatibility of the Local Transmission System (LTS) pipelines, which connect the National Transmission System to communities and industrial centres, with hydrogen.²⁶ Similarly, H100 Fife is a research project pioneering a local hydrogen network in the towns of Buckhaven and Denbeath, Fife, where the project aims to supply up to 300 homes with zero-carbon hydrogen for heating and cooking, produced by a dedicated electrolysis plant powered by nearby offshore wind.²⁷

Energy infrastructure projects in Royal Greenwich – District Heat Networks

- 4.24 In order to meet the targets for carbon reduction by 2050, the Royal Borough of Greenwich has adopted a Carbon Neutral Plan which sets out action plans covering seven key themes (Buildings, New Development, Transport, Energy Supply, Circular Economy, Natural Environment and Empowering Wider Change), in order to achieve net carbon by 2030, which is an ambition of the Royal Borough of Greenwich. The energy emissions reductions by 2030 would be comprised of further grid decarbonisation, additional local renewable capacity, further increases in the energy efficiency of buildings and increases in sustainable travel.
- 4.25 A key objective of RBGs Carbon Neutral Plan is to support the development of District Heat Networks (DHNs). District Heat Networks (also known as District Heating) supply heating, or heating and hot water, from a central Energy Centre rather than from individual boilers within each building. Heat is distributed through underground insulated pipes that carry hot water directly to commercial premises. These networks can support large areas such as business districts, mixed use developments, or entire parts of a city or smaller groups of commercial buildings, such as offices, retail units, or mixed commercial sites, in a more sustainable way with lower costs for consumers and reduced carbon use. Some Energy Centres run on gas however many will generate heat through low-carbon methods, for example in Greenwich the preferred long-term heat source is waste heat from the Cory

²⁴ SGN. Innovation Annual Summary 2024/25: <https://www.sgn.co.uk/sites/default/files/media-entities/documents/2025-07/innovationannualreport2025.pdf>

²⁵ *ibid.*

²⁶ LTS Futures. SGN, 2026: [LTS Futures | SGN Your gas. Our network.](#)

²⁷ H100 Fife. SGN, 2026: [H100 Fife | Future of Gas | SGN](#)

Energy-from-Waste plant in Bexley, delivered through a new transmission main. The ambition is that 10% of the borough's heat demand will be served by zero-carbon district heat networks (which is approximately 13,000 homes).

- 4.26 Since 2012, the Royal Borough has explored opportunities to develop District Heat Networks in the Borough, and a number of development areas have progressed with their own onsite District Heating Energy Centres, which have been completed and are operational. These are located at Greenwich Peninsula, Greenwich Millennium Village, Royal Arsenal in Woolwich and Kidbrooke and all four heating networks run on natural gas Combined Heat and Power (CHP), providing heating and hot water to a mix of uses but primarily residential units.
- 4.27 The Greenwich Peninsula Masterplan has been developed by Knight Dragon. A site wide district heating network run on natural gas (CHP) provides space heating and hot water to 15,700 residential units and over 3.5 million ft² of commercial space. Pinnacle Power (Knight Dragon's subsidiary company) operates and maintains the 2,600sqm Greenwich Peninsula Low Carbon Energy Centre (GP LCEC), which is located on the "Gateway Site" just outside of the 2015 Masterplan area. The GP LCEC includes 87MW of heat generation capacity²⁸. A revised masterplan was submitted in August 2019 (19/2733/O) stating that the energy centre is served by 1 x 3MW gas boiler, 2 x 10MW gas boiler (one boiler will be on standby only) and 1 x 2MWe gas CHP.
- 4.28 The Greenwich Millennium Village is being developed by Countryside and Taylor Wimpey Central London. A site wide heat network provides space heating and hot water to the residential development. Vital Energi was appointed for the design and delivery of a CHP Energy Centre for the GMV built to be an environmentally innovative and sustainable development of around 3,000 homes.
- 4.29 The Royal Arsenal riverside development in Woolwich is supplied via a CHP Energy Centre (EC) owned and operated by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE). The EC currently contains a 150kWe/200kWth CHP, together with two 2MW boilers and a 70m³ thermal store. Expansion is planned to meet future phases of development, which would see the existing CHP capacity increased to 2.4MWe.
- 4.30 The Kidbrooke village redevelopment (Berkeley Homes) consists of approximately 4,800 residential units and 34,000m² of non-residential space. A district heating system, with CHP, is being implemented. The current status of the DHN is that both primary energy centres are operational, with a total of 16.7MW plant installed, including 1.261MWth combined heat and power, with facilitating works for a further 12.4MW of plant. Both energy centres supply heat to the resilient ring which is extended as each building is developed to ensure heat is supplied to each new building from Day 1 of operation. The heat network was designed to have sufficient capacity for all homes within this application.

²⁸ <https://www.pinnaclepower.co.uk/case-studies/greenwich-peninsula-district-energy/>

- 4.31 The East Greenwich area includes a Council lead project exploring the retrofit of a communal heating network with a renewable heating solution in the form of Water Source Heat Pumps.
- 4.32 Most of the existing DHN operators in Greenwich are in discussions with the GLA regarding the development of decarbonisation plans of the central Energy Centres. The Council is also exploring options of low carbon heat infrastructure on its own housing stock and corporate buildings which will explore the use of low carbon and renewable technology, for example an innovative first of its kind water source heat pump drawing on natural resource of water from Thames Basin, and a system drawing energy from waste.
- 4.33 As part of further work looking into the techno-economic feasibility of further DHNs in Royal Greenwich, several priority areas (“clusters”) have been identified where local heat networks would be established which will later be connected to an overall transmission pipeline from west of the borough to the existing areas of high demand (Peninsula) and potentially to Greenwich Town Centre. The first of these clusters along the planned route is Woolwich. To provide heat in the early stages, these clusters will be supplied by mobile heat barges transporting heat from the Cory Energy from Waste plant. During this period, a permanent buried heat network will be constructed from east to west. The Cory EfW plant has significant capacity, with ~30MW capacity from its Riverside 1 facility, and ~150MW available from its Riverside 2 facility which is currently under construction and due for completion in 2028.
- 4.34 The council has developed a Detailed Project Design for 5 areas: Woolwich Town Centre, West Greenwich Peninsula, Charlton, Abbey Wood East, Thamesmead North, with an Outline Business Case made for the Woolwich town centre cluster as it will be connected to the DHN first. All five areas are anticipated to complete by 2029-2032.
- 4.35 Regarding funding, some funding may come from the Green Heat Network Fund, a capital grant programme launched in 2022 to accelerate the commercialisation and construction of low carbon heat networks in England. It supports new networks and the expansion/retrofitting of existing ones, including projects using low and zero carbon heat sources such as heat pumps, waste heat and geothermal. GHNF forms a core part of the UK’s Heat Network Transformation Programme (HNTF), building on the earlier Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP).

Energy infrastructure projects in Royal Greenwich – electricity network upgrades

- 4.36 Data from UKPN indicates that the borough’s electricity infrastructure is currently sufficient to meet user demands, as the entire borough has over 5% headroom in unutilised primary electricity capacity, illustrating that even if demand increases slightly the supply should be able to match it. UKPN are currently in the process of formulating their ED3 business plan which will cover investment from 2028-2033, and once agreed with Ofgem they will release a more detailed view of planned network reinforcement projects. During the process of large-scale development schemes, UKPN engage with Royal Greenwich’s planning officers to ensure that any growth in electricity demand can be met through the grid, and this in turn informs UKPN’s evidence base for when and where grid upgrades are required in the future.

5 Transport

- 5.1 TfL's London Travel Demand Survey shows that on an average day, 27% of the borough's residents use public transport, 40% travel by car and 30% walk (for the majority of a journey) as can be seen in Figure 3 below.

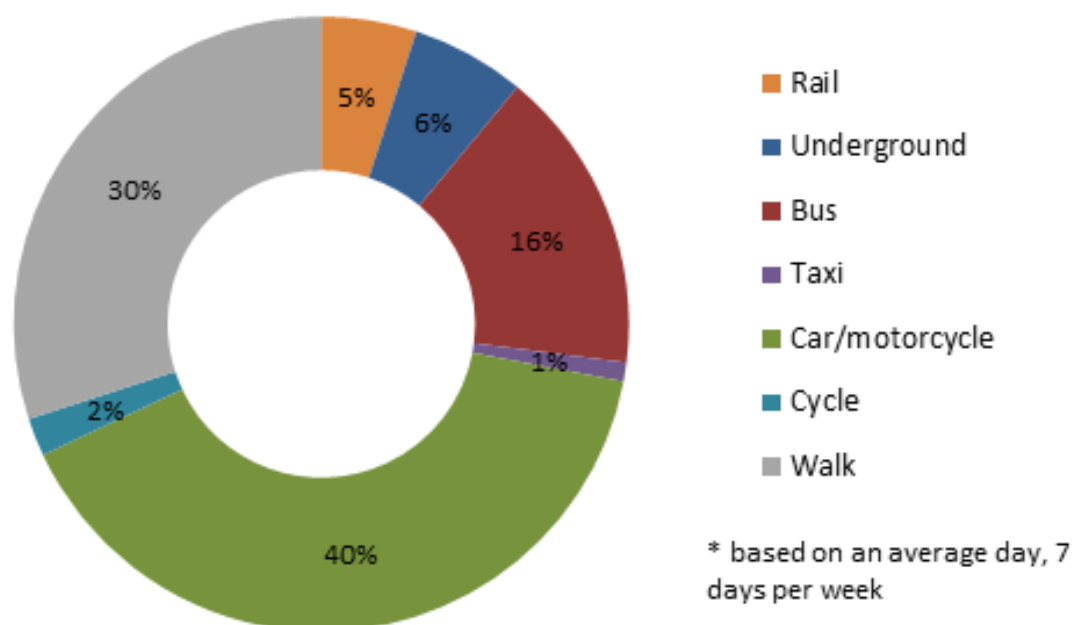


Figure 3 Transport modes used in Royal Greenwich – 2014/15 to 2016/17

- 5.2 The [Mayor's Transport Strategy](#) 2018 aims for 80% of all trips in London to be made on foot, by cycling or using public transport by 2041, meaning that car usage in the borough will need to be reduced by more than half in order to meet this target and allow for growth. To reduce reliance on cars, the Mayor is taking a 'healthy streets' approach to encourage more Londoners to walk, cycle and use public transport. This will help to improve air quality, reduce congestion and help to make London a greener, healthier more attractive place to live and work.
- 5.3 Major transport systems in the borough, including tube, Docklands Light Rail (DLR) and buses are run by TfL. The National Rail network is the responsibility of Network Rail, with services provided by a Train Operating Company, currently Southeastern. The Transport for London Road Network is managed by TfL and other public highways by the Royal Borough. Boroughwide projects are set out in the [Local Implementation Plan](#) (LIP3) 2019/20-2021/22. The LIP sets out the borough's transport objectives and how the Mayor's Transport Strategy 2018 will be implemented.
- 5.4 The objectives in the current LIP are:
- To promote active travel (through infrastructure and behaviour change)
 - Encourage traffic reduction
 - Reduce emissions
 - Improve public transport
 - Reduce road danger

- 5.5 The Council and Greenwich Services Plus Ltd operate an in-house fleet delivering a range of services including: waste collection, street cleansing, parks and open space management, caretaking and housing maintenance.

Existing Provision

- 5.6 Transport links across the borough from east to west and into London are generally relatively good as can be seen in Figure 4 below. The north of the borough benefits from connections to London Underground, DLR and river transport services.

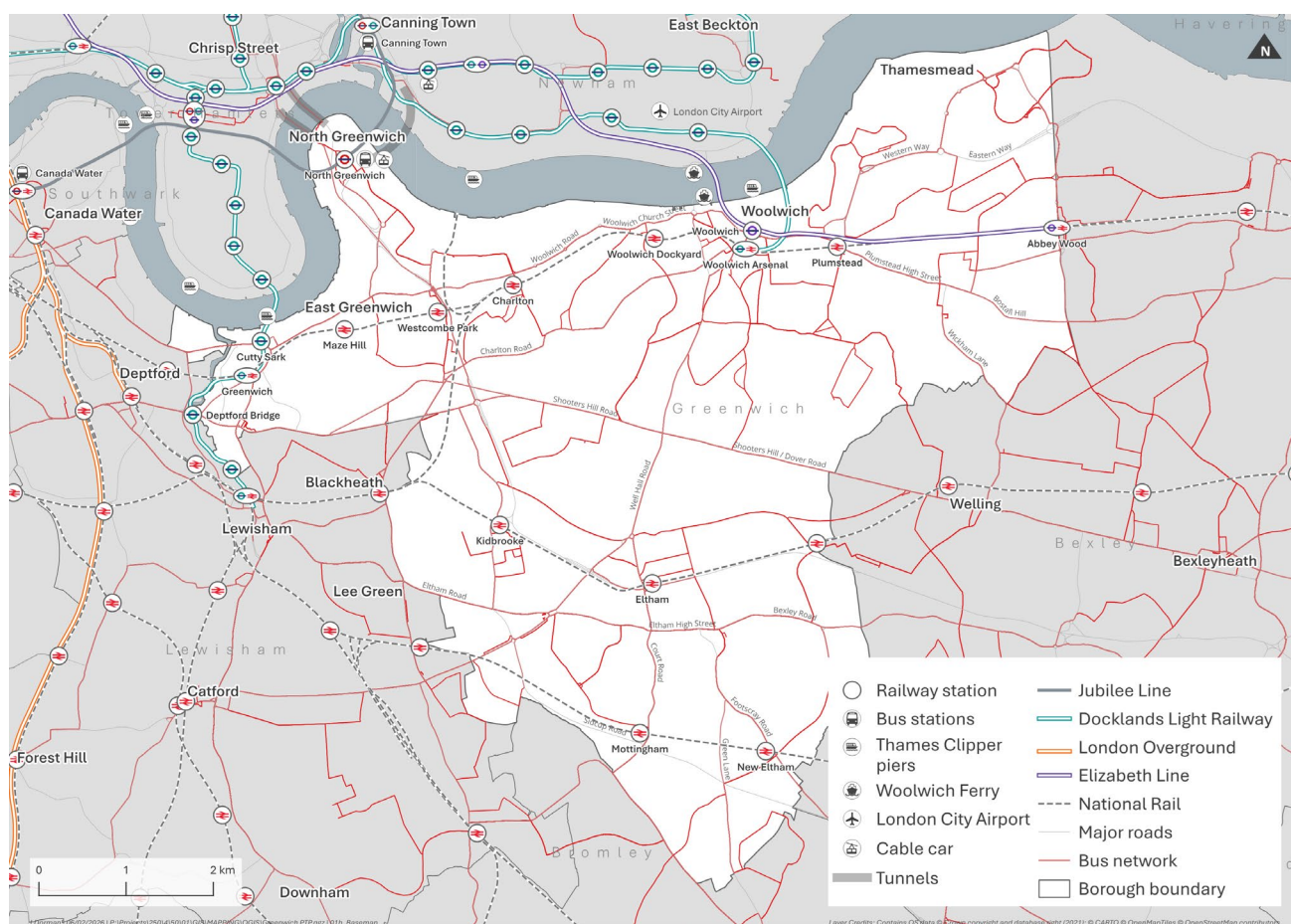


Figure 4 Existing transport provision

- 5.7 The north-south links within the borough are poor with buses offering the only links between major transport hubs and residential areas, resulting in more reliance on cars.

DLR and Underground

- 5.8 The DLR has two lines in the borough. The Lewisham line crosses the River Thames to pass through Cutty Sark, Greenwich and Deptford Bridge. The Woolwich line crosses the River Thames to terminate at Woolwich Arsenal. The Greenwich Peninsula has the Borough's only underground station, on the Jubilee line at North Greenwich. The Elizabeth Line has welcomed over 13 million passengers, supported by a £15m CIL station investment operating faster connections to Canary Wharf, central and west London, including Heathrow Airport.

This new connection has halved some journey times with journeys from Woolwich to Canary Wharf now taking just 8 minutes and Woolwich to Bond Street approximately 20 minutes.

Rail

- 5.9 The National Rail network is currently the responsibility of Network Rail, with services provided by the Train Operating Company, Southeastern. These will both become part of the newly established Great British Railways. The Borough has 3 heavy rail lines operated by Southeastern, these form a series of radial (east – west) links for the Borough between Central London and Kent.
- 5.10 The North Kent (Woolwich) line passes through Abbey Wood, Plumstead, Woolwich Arsenal, Woolwich Dockyard, Charlton, Westcombe Park, Maze Hill and Greenwich. The Bexleyheath Line serves Falconwood, Eltham, Kidbrooke and Blackheath Stations and the Sidcup line serves Mottingham and New Eltham stations.

Buses

- 5.11 There is a well-established network of Transport for London Bus Services that run on both local and more strategic routes in Greenwich. Crucially they form the only north south links in the Borough and provide links between major transport hubs and for existing residential areas and new opportunity areas.
- 5.12 The bus network has recently been enhanced with the introduction of new Superloop services providing more strategic, faster north-south and east-west connections across the Borough.

River Services

- 5.13 Thames Clippers provide a timetabled service stopping at Woolwich, North Greenwich (O2) and Greenwich, which then links westward to Canary Wharf and Central London. There is also a weekend service from North Greenwich which serves Woolwich Arsenal.
- 5.14 The Woolwich Ferry also runs daily, linking Woolwich and North Woolwich. The service is free and carries pedestrians, cyclists, cars, vans and lorries. Two new hybrid ferries came into operation in January 2019 with aims to reduce emissions.

Walking and Cycling

- 5.15 The Thames Path forms a formal walking route across the borough and extends into the surrounding south-eastern boroughs. There are two foot-tunnels, which take pedestrians and cyclists across the river at Woolwich and Greenwich. These tunnels form vital parts of both cycle and walking networks. Work is ongoing to identify and deliver more comprehensive walking and cycling networks across the Borough. Using the Strategic Cycling Analysis conducted by TfL, population growth forecasts and site-specific evaluations have allowed the Council to identify the routes with the highest potential for future cycling growth. These routes currently being developed are:
- Cycleway 4 – Greenwich to Thamesmead / Abbey Wood
 - Eltham to Greenwich
 - Greenwich Park to Elverson Road
 - Plumstead to Abbey Wood
 - North to East Greenwich
 - Shooters Hill to Greenwich Park

Cross-river highway links

- 5.16 The recently opened Silvertown Tunnel is a new twin-bore road tunnel under the Thames which links the Greenwich Peninsula and Silvertown in the Docklands. This has reduced congestion at Blackwall Tunnel and made peak time journeys faster and also provides an alternative crossing when Blackwall Tunnel is closed for essential maintenance and repairs.

London Cable Car

- 5.17 The London Cable Car crosses the river from Greenwich Peninsula to Royal Docks. It opened in 2012 and is operated by TfL.

In-house fleet

- 5.18 The Council currently operates around 460 vehicles with a further c. 100 vehicles being operated by its arms-length company, Greenwich Services Plus Ltd. As of December 2020, the breakdown of this combined fleet was made up of 96.2% diesel, 0.5% diesel-hybrid, 0.2% petrol-hybrid, 0.9% petrol and 2.2% electric. Since 2021 the council has been using HVO (Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil) and now uses it as its primary liquid fuel to power the majority of its fleet bringing a circa 90% 'well-to-wheel' over the use of diesel.
- 5.19 The Birchmere Centre (the Council's main operational depot) has 25 electric vehicle chargers and is able to support a small increase in the number of electric vehicles in the fleet before additional infrastructure and electrical capacity is required. A further 7 extra vehicle chargers are also installed in other locations.
- 5.20 The Council has held a Fleet Operator's Recognition Scheme (FORS) bronze accreditation since 2015 to improve the environmental and safety performance of its fleet.

Future Provision – Strategic Projects

- 5.21 Significant population, housing and employment growth will have implications on the borough's transport network. Ensuring transport infrastructure is adequate to support this growth is essential in ensuring future development is sustainable. Transport infrastructure is not only about capacity on the road and public transport network but also improving attractiveness and accessibility for all residents by foot, bicycle, public transport and interchange between travel modes - especially in areas of growth.
- 5.22 Current and future transport projects that have been identified can be seen in Table 3. These projects are being developed in partnership with TfL to support future growth, without which the growth potential for the areas will be limited. Connections across the borough will continue to improve with the majority of major transport infrastructure projects anticipated in the north of the borough to correspond with future population growth.

DLR Thamesmead

- 5.23 Growth in Thamesmead is intrinsically linked to the delivery of strategic public transport and new public transport infrastructure is needed to support housing and employment growth. To realise the full development potential of the area a DLR cross river extension from Becton Riverside (Gallions Reach Station) to Thamesmead is now approved. This would provide direct links to the Royal Docks and easier access to Canary Wharf and Poplar for on connections as well as new interchange opportunities at Canning Town (Jubilee line) and Custom House (Elizabeth line).

Table 3 Anticipated Future major TFL schemes

Anticipated future major Tfl schemes Scheme	Description	Area of borough	Status
DLR extension	A cross-river Docklands Light Railway (DLR) extension from Gallions Reach to Thamesmead, reducing severance caused by the Thames and opening up development opportunities.	Thamesmead	Expected to open in 2032/33
Thamesmead BRT	Priority for buses to make bus journeys faster between Plumstead, Thamesmead and Abbey Wood and improvements at bus stops to make them more accessible. New cycle tracks to provide a continuous segregated cycle route between Woolwich and Thamesmead/Abbeywood.	Plumstead to Thamesmead and Abbey Wood	Expected to open in 2029 . Funded by Homes England
Cycleway 4 (extension of cycle way)	Cycleway 4 will create a continuous segregated cycle highway from Tower Bridge to Greenwich and then onwards to Woolwich (Phase 2) and Thamesmead (Phase 3). It will improve public spaces and facilities for people who are walking. It is supported by wider cycleways and local cycle routes programmes spanning the Royal Borough.	Greenwich to Woolwich	Phase 2 under construction to open summer 2026. Phase 3 expected to commence 2027 Funded by TFL and Section 106
Charlton Riverside East West Route and Riverside Route	A new East-West route for public transport, walking and cycling is proposed to provide a new corridor through the heart of Charlton Riverside. This will help to link the area to public transport hubs, existing areas and new development between Woolwich and North Greenwich. The new route, along Herringham Road and Anchor & Hope Lane, will provide better accessibility towards the north of the area furthest away from existing public transport.		To be confirmed
Greenwich & Woolwich foot tunnels	Regeneration of both the Greenwich and Woolwich foot tunnels, through RIBA Design and works packages Electrical upgrade Digital Lighting, Digital Advertising and Ventilation	Greenwich, Woolwich	Funded by TfL, GLA and developer contributions

- Cycling Network Development and inclusive designs
 - Lift replacement
- Building fabric conservation

Greenwich Town Centre Liveable Neighbourhood	A transformative project, which proposes the removal of the gyratory system in the Town Centre. The project has the core objective to support mode shift towards walking, cycling and public transport by creating environments that make these modes the logical choice.	Greenwich	Funded by TfL and developer contributions
Cycleway Greenwich Park to Shooters Hill	Continuous cycle route with a mix of protected cycle tracks, off-road paths and through low traffic streets	Charlton Hornfair, Shooters Hill	Funded by TfL and developer contributions
Cycleway Greenwich Park to Eltham	Continuous cycle route with a mix of protected cycle tracks, off-road paths and through low traffic streets	Blackheath, Kidbrooke, Eltham	Funded by TfL and developer contributions

Buses

- 5.24 Changes were made to a number of routes in order to ensure an appropriate level of capacity is provided and bus connectivity to the new Elizabeth Line stations is maximised. TfL monitor capacity and overcrowding on bus routes and will use this to inform when to modify bus services. This required additional or expanded services, infrastructure, and/or other bus priority measures. For instance, as a result of monitoring and developer contributions, a new bus service from North Greenwich to Kidbrooke was introduced in October 2019. In addition, Superloop 11 provides express services between North Greenwich and Abbey wood via Woolwich and SL3 from Thamesmead to Bromley via Abbey Wood station.
- 5.25 As new development comes forward and population increases, so does pressure on the existing transport system. Bus Rapid Transits (BRT) will therefore be needed to improve connectivity in areas of expected growth. The Bus Rapid Transit would be a modern, high-quality system, comprising of bus transit lanes separated from general traffic where possible. Transit stops would be highly identifiable and fully accessible, spaced further apart than conventional bus stops, enabling quicker journey times between key locations such as Thamesmead Town Centre and Abbey Wood station and towards Woolwich.
- 5.26 A BRT will be needed to support the levels of expected growth in Thamesmead and better connect the area with Woolwich, Plumstead and Abbey wood. Similarly, in Charlton new and improved bus provision will be needed as well as improved access and connections to surrounding public transport hubs and new cycling and walking routes.
- 5.27 Buses are an affordable means of transport and need to be the focus of improvement, especially in areas of deprivation such as the north of the borough.
- 5.28 Whilst population increase is expected to be higher in the north of the borough where major development is taking place and major transport infrastructure is needed to support this

growth, the majority of small sites are in the south of the borough which will still see population growth and an increase in reliance on cars if public transport accessibility is not improved. This needs to be addressed if Royal Greenwich is to meet the target set out in the Mayor's Transport Strategy of 80% of all journeys being made on foot, by bike or using public transport by 2041. Developments across the borough should mitigate their impacts on the road network, improve access to public transport and encourage active travel.

Future Provision - Borough projects

- 5.29 Royal Greenwich runs a number of programmes and initiatives to support walking, cycling and the public transport network and to achieve the objectives set out in the LIP. These include physical measures to improve the walking and cycling environment, reduce road traffic, slow traffic down and better connect places to public transport routes as well as initiatives to change people's attitudes and behaviours towards public transport and encourage active travel. Royal Greenwich also aims to improve existing conditions and ensure that new developments do not worsen traffic but instead contribute to creating an environment that encourages active travel.

Traffic levels, congestion and safety

- 5.30 Reducing private car usage is a priority for Royal Greenwich in order to create healthier streets, meet the Mayor's targets set out in the Transport Strategy and improve air quality. In order to achieve this, the Royal Borough aims to create low traffic neighbourhoods where traffic is restricted. For instance, a package of modal filters was installed as part of an experimental scheme to address excessive and dangerous traffic on our residential streets in West Greenwich. We are working to understand how this has worked and how we can best roll this approach out to other areas at present.
- 5.31 There are already a number of Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ's) in the borough and Royal Greenwich will continue to update and expand these and introduce new ones to reduce reliance on cars. Work undertaken to support the Council's Carbon Neutral Plan has identified the need for further zones - and banded parking permit charges that vary with vehicle emissions.
- 5.32 In addition to reducing the use of motor vehicles, it is necessary to reduce the danger that they pose by improving road safety. The LIP sets out traffic calming measures (such as delivering a boroughwide 20mph zone) and a number of training courses and safety programmes run across the borough to help improve road safety including cycle and scooter training in schools, *Stepping Stones* to improve user confidence, and independent travel group sessions for school pupils with Special Educational Needs or anxiety about travel.
- 5.33 As part of its commitment to improving road safety and encouraging safer driving speeds, the Royal Borough is progressing towards the introduction of a 20mph speed limit across its road network. This includes 20mph limits on all residential streets and extending them to appropriate non-residential routes, creating a consistent, borough-wide approach that supports safer, healthier streets for all road users.
- 5.34 When vehicle use is necessary, Royal Greenwich is committed to encouraging ultra-low emission vehicles (such as electric). Based on the Department for Transport figures there are around 286 charging points in the Borough. Royal Greenwich will ensure that the number of plug-in charge points continues to grow as the number of registered electric vehicles continues to increase. A rapid charging hub was delivered at Glass Yard Walk. In addition, we

are delivering contracts for at least 1,150 bollard-based chargers and up to a further 800 lamppost chargers.

- 5.35 The Royal Borough's Carbon Neutral Plan includes further targets for Electric Vehicle charger installation alongside the Council's Electric Vehicle Policy Framework Action Plan. In order to achieve the objectives set out in the Mayor's Transport Strategy and the LIP, all new developments should be car free or offer minimum parking and should seek the provision of electric charging points as part of any car parking provision as set out in the Core Strategy and the London Plan.

Active Travel - Walking and cycling

- 5.36 As set out in figure 3, on average 30% of trips in Greenwich are by walking and this is the second most popular mode of transport. Walking is an accessible mode of travel for most people and improving conditions for walking can bring a range of benefits to health and wellbeing. As set out in the LIP, following recent completion of schemes in Woolwich and Eltham, pedestrianisation and improvements to pedestrian facilities will be focused around Greenwich, Plumstead and Thamesmead and 'healthy routes' will be delivered to create attractive, safe and accessible walking routes to schools, town centres and public transport interchanges.
- 5.37 Cycling has a lower take up than walking with an average of 1%. The main reasons for this are safety concerns and inconsistent cycling facilities. There are a number of planned improvements to cycle routes to make cycling more attractive and safer, to achieve the targets as set out in the borough [Transport Strategy](#) for 72% of residents living within 400m of a strategic cycle route and 75% of journeys made by walking, cycling and using public transport. These include delivering new cycling and walking routes such as extending the Thames Path around the West of the Peninsula to create a continuous route along the river, delivering infrastructure for dockless biking, improving connectivity to public transport, improving wayfinding and continuing to install cycle parking.
- 5.38 In addition to improving the cycling infrastructure and creating a safer cycling environment, the Royal Borough will continue to promote active travel and run training programmes to increase residents' confidence. Developers are required to contribute towards the cost of providing or enhancing the pedestrian and cycling environment and active travel promotion and training.

6 Waste

- 6.1 The Royal Borough of Greenwich is part of the Southeast London Boroughs joint waste working group. This group was originally formed by five unitary waste planning authorities working together to identify and meet sub-regional requirements for waste management facilities. The initial group consisted of the London boroughs of Bexley, Bromley, Lewisham, Greenwich and Southwark. The City of London subsequently joined the group, with Bexley taking responsibility for their apportionment. The Leaders of all 6 Local Authorities have formally agreed to pool their individual waste apportionment requirements for waste management facilities.
- 6.2 The Southeast London Joint Waste Working Group produced the Southeast London Waste Technical Paper which demonstrates how waste apportionment targets set by the London Plan will be met. Apportionment is a per cent share of London's total waste to be managed by the borough; Greenwich's current percentage share is 4%.
- 6.3 London boroughs may collaborate by pooling their apportionment requirements, as the Southeast London Waste Group have done and it is these totals that the joint waste technical paper establishes can be met within the sub-region.

Table 4 London Plan apportionment targets for South East London Working Group

Year	Bromley	Bexley	City of London	Lewisham	RBG	Southwark	South-east totals
2016	172,000	315,000	100,000	143,000	229,000	172,000	1,131,000
2021	199,000	364,000	100,000	166,000	265,000	199,000	1,293,000
2026	238,000	437,000	100,000	199,000	318,000	238,000	1,530,000
2031	242,000	444,000	100,000	202,000	323,000	242,000	1,553,000
2036	247,000	453,000	100,000	206,000	329,000	247,000	1,582,000
% share	3%	5.5%	n/a	2.5%	4%	3%	

*Taken from the Waste Technical Paper

Existing Waste Capacity Provision

- 6.4 The London Plan requires boroughs to allocate sufficient land (sites and/or areas) and identify waste management facilities to provide the capacity to manage their apportioned tonnages of waste to meet the apportionment requirements. The Royal Borough of Greenwich's target was 229,000 -329,000 tonnes (2016-2036) in the 2016 London Plan and has increased to 338,000 – 359,000 tonnes (2021-2041) in the London Plan 2021. As can be seen in the map below, the Royal Borough of Greenwich does not have the capacity at its strategic waste facilities to meet the current or draft London Plan target within the borough.

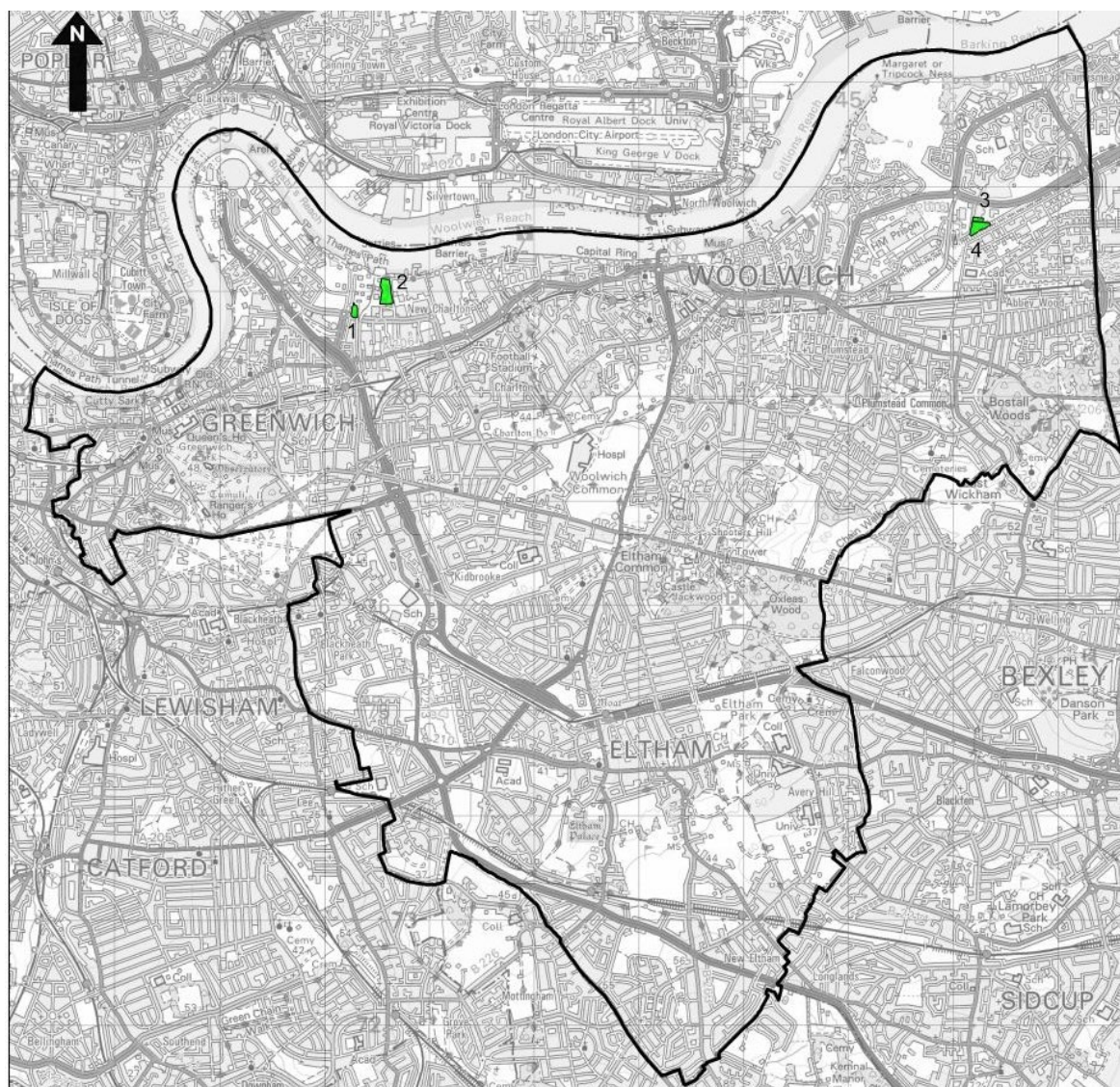


Figure 5 Existing waste capacity in Royal Greenwich

- 6.5 However, the Southeast London Waste Group collectively has enough capacity to meet its apportionment targets in the London Plan plus a considerable amount of surplus over the plan period as illustrated in table 5 below. The London Plan 2021 decreases the Southeast London waste apportionment figure to 1,492,000 tonnes in 2041 from 1,582,000 tonnes in 2036 in the London Plan 2016 (see Table 5). A Waste DPD is therefore not necessary and the Boroughs will continue to safeguard existing waste sites in their Local Plans.
- 6.6 In addition, there are two waste facilities included in the apportionment figures which are not currently operational; Thames Road Waste and Street Services Depot in Crayford and the Old Integrated Waste Management Recycling Facility in Thamesmead. The Old Integrated Waste Management Recycling Facility falls within Greenwich borough and is next to the existing reuse and recycling centre. These sites are safeguarded for future waste management use when needed. Table 4 above illustrates that even without these sites in operation the projected actual surplus capacity is still 665,609 tonnes (2016) and 266,180 (2036) leaving significant surplus capacity within the Southeast London group.

Furthermore, the decrease in the apportionment target set out in the 2021 London Plan has increased this surplus capacity further.

Table 5 South East London joint waste capacity 2016 – 2036 (projected)

	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036
Bromley capacity	81,932	95,240	102,264	109,288	109,288
Bexley capacity	1,219,584	1,224,297	1,224,297	1,224,297	1,224,297
City of London capacity	0	0	0	0	0
Lewisham capacity	502,297	502,623	502,888	503,152	503,152
Royal Greenwich capacity	93,546	99,072	102,482	105,893	105,893
Southwark capacity	104,850	106,950	109,050	111,150	111,150
Total capacity	2,002,209	2,028,182	2,040,981	2,053,780	2,053,780
SE London total apportionment target (2016)	1,131,000	1,293,000	1,530,000	1,553,000	1,582,000
projected total surplus (above target)	871,209	735,182	510,981	500,780	471,780
projected surplus capacity from operational sites (see explanatory text below)	665,609	529,582	305,381	295,180	266,180

Future Waste Capacity Provision

- 6.7 As illustrated above, the Southeast London Joint Waste Working Group has capacity now and for the foreseeable future to process waste apportioned by the London Plan which is produced within its locality. Although there are some waste streams identified in the NPPW which are not apportioned within the London Plan, the Southeast London Waste Technical Paper will be updated in time for submission of Royal Greenwich's local plan for examination in public, and this update will discuss all waste streams identified in the NPPW.
- 6.8 There are also a number of 'non-strategic' sites in each borough that are currently operating as licenced waste facilities that were not identified in the Joint Waste Technical Paper as they are not considered strategic and not required to meet the waste capacity apportionment targets during the London Plan period.

- 6.9 At present, there is no need to identify any additional waste management sites in Royal Greenwich, but strategic sites will need to continue to be protected. It is worth noting that there is nowhere in Southeast London to process organic waste and there may be a need for an anaerobic digester in the future.
- 6.10 The Royal Borough of Greenwich will also continue to seek to reduce the amount of waste arising in the borough through effective waste management.

Existing Waste management Provision

- 6.11 The Royal Borough of Greenwich collects recycling from households in four streams:
- **Green** – Garden waste
 - **Brown** – Food waste
 - **Blue** – Mixed dry recycling
 - **Black** – Residual waste includes anything that cannot be recycled in the blue or green top bins as residual waste in a black topped bin.
- 6.12 The Royal Borough also offers additional waste collection services for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), textiles such as clothes and shoes and bulky waste such as white goods and furniture.
- 6.13 As can be seen in Figure 6 below, recycling rates are relatively low at 32.5% in 2024/25 when compared to a national average of 43.7%. In addition, recycling rates have actually reduced in recent years rather than increased²⁹ as a result of property growth particularly flats.

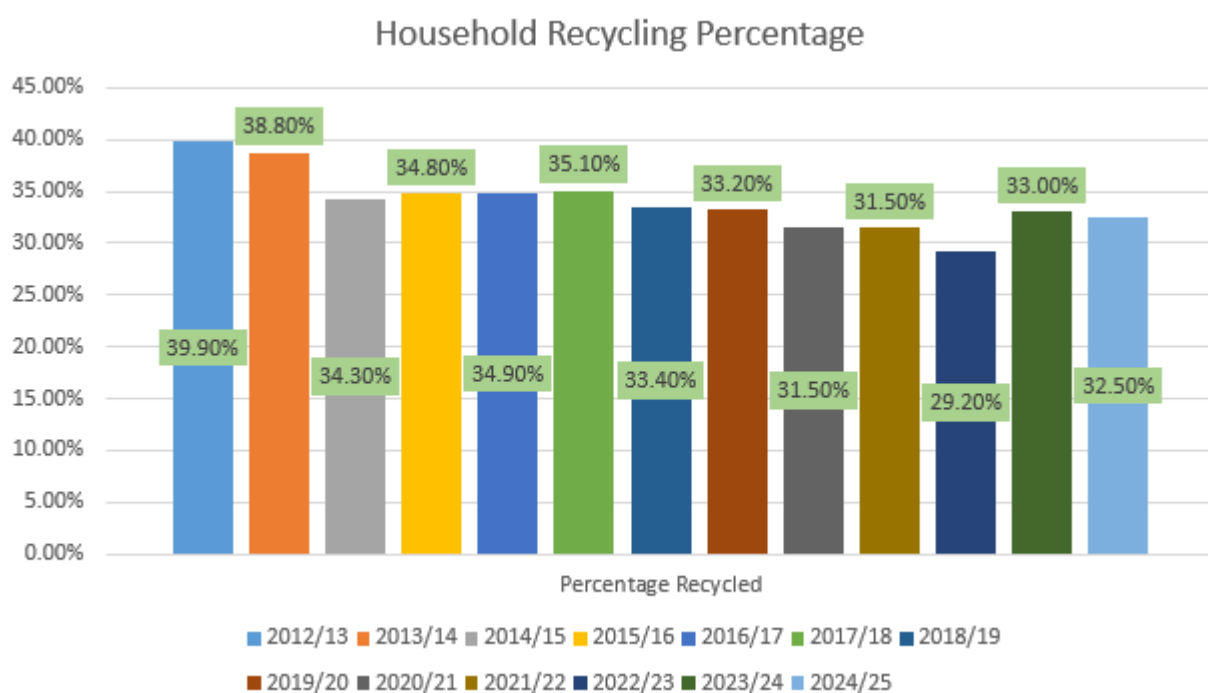


Figure 6 Amount of waste recycled in Royal Greenwich

²⁹ Taken from the London's [Waste and Recycling Board](#)

- 6.14 RBG's Waste Strategy (2016-2025) was developed to enable the Royal Borough to achieve a more sustainable approach to municipal³⁰ waste management. The Strategy aims to:
- Address reducing recycling rates
 - Use data to gain a greater understanding of performance and identify opportunities for improvement
 - Improve and expand the range of services offered to residents
 - Manage the challenges presented by the growing population whilst ensuring efficient, safe waste collections which maximise recycling.
- 6.15 An update to the existing waste strategy, titled 'Towards Zero Waste', was agreed by Cabinet in September 2020 to accelerate the shift to more sustainable waste management. The strategy update aims to:
- Improve the borough's recycling performance
 - Reduce the levels of contamination in the recycling material collected
 - Reduce overall waste generation per household
 - Reduce the use of single use plastics
- 6.16 A stricter contamination policy was introduced in November 2022 to all kerbside properties, whereby the Council stopped emptying contaminated recycling (blue top and green top) wheelie bins through a 3-stage process and eventually removing the bins if they are contaminated three times in a three-month period.
- 6.17 Fortnightly residual waste collections were introduced to kerbside properties from February 2023, along with a 'no side waste' policy for residual waste from June 2023, in an effort to reduce residual waste and increase recycling collected. As a result of these service changes, our household recycling rate has increased from 29.2% in 22/23 to 33% in 23/24.
- 6.18 Recycling rates across London have also slowed down and were stagnant at 33% in 2024/25. The Mayor's Environment Strategy also recognises that London as a whole needs to reduce the amount of municipal waste generated by the capital, increase recycling and composting performance significantly, and generate energy from rubbish that cannot be reused or recycled in a way that is no more polluting in carbon terms than the energy source it replaces.
- 6.19 In order to do this, the approach to waste management will need to change from a linear economy where materials are used until the end of their life and then disposed of to a circular economy where waste is designed out entirely by reusing and recycling.
- 6.20 The hierarchy in figure 7 illustrates how waste management should be approached to achieve this shift in economy.

³⁰ The London Plan defines Municipal waste in the possession or under the control of local authorities or agents acting on their behalf. It includes all household waste, street litter, waste delivered to council recycling points, municipal parks and gardens wastes, council office waste, Civic Amenity waste, and some commercial waste from shops and smaller trading estates where local authorities have waste collection agreements in place.

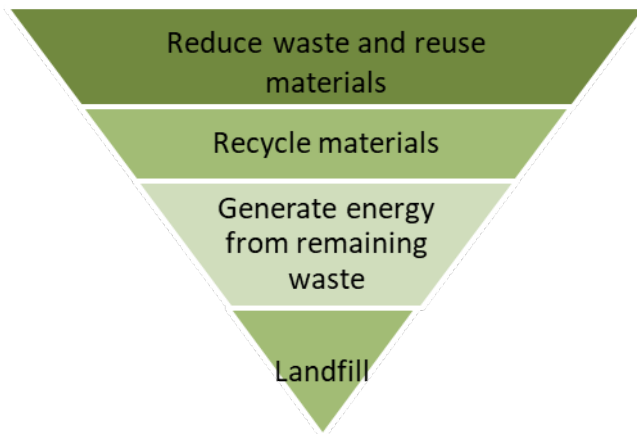


Figure 7 Waste management hierarchy

- 6.21 This will involve changing people's attitude towards waste and its disposal including encouraging people to reuse materials, educating people about how to recycle correctly and how to make better buying choices. It will also involve reducing products in plastic packaging and increasing availability and visibility of recycling facilities and making sure the infrastructure is available to encourage and create opportunities for businesses developing reuse, repair and remanufacturing services.
- 6.22 With a significant amount of growth planned in Royal Greenwich, it will be paramount that waste collection services are considered at the earliest point in planning applications and developments comply with Royal Greenwich guidance and the London Waste and Recycling Board Guidance 2014.
- 6.23 One of the biggest challenges in terms of improving recycling rates is that the majority of new developments are flats and recycling bins are not as conveniently located as they are for houses. The latest research points to there not being a 'one size fits all' solution when it comes to improving recycling from flats and will require investment in the bin/bin room infrastructure along with high levels of ongoing communication with flat dwellers.
- 6.24 The Royal Borough of Greenwich continues its efforts to strengthen its recycling performance against the backdrop of major national reforms that will significantly reshape local waste services over the coming years. Existing initiatives such as public education programmes, contamination reduction campaigns, community engagement, and school-based environmental activities remain essential as the borough prepares for the government's Simpler Recycling mandate.

Future Waste Management Provision

- 6.25 From 31 March 2026, all local authorities must collect a consistent set of materials, including separate food waste, with kerbside plastic film collections becoming compulsory a year later in March 2027.
- 6.26 Alongside these reforms, the UK's Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is progressing towards an October 2027 launch. While DRS is expected to reduce the overall volume of recyclable material collected by local authorities, it should also reduce levels of litter, as on-the-go drinks containers will carry a financial value and therefore be more likely to be returned by consumers.

- 6.27 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging also continues to advance, with DEFRA's published payment methodologies for 2026–27 shifting the financial responsibility for managing household packaging waste from councils onto producers and, in theory, providing local authorities with the full net funding to manage waste in scope of EPR.
- 6.28 In addition, the UK's Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is expanding to include the waste sector, beginning with a voluntary monitoring, reporting, and verification period for energy-from-waste facilities ahead of a full inclusion in 2028. This expansion is expected to have a significant financial impact, with higher waste disposal costs anticipated as operators begin to account for carbon related liabilities.
- 6.29 Despite these substantial national changes, the Royal Borough of Greenwich continues to invest in improving local recycling services, including upgrading bin stores and signage in flats, rolling out food waste collections across the borough, and delivering clear, accessible communications to residents. These efforts position the borough to adapt effectively to incoming policy reforms while continuing to provide high-quality, user-friendly recycling services for all households.
- 6.30 In 2025, the council began to re-procure its waste disposal services, ensuring future contracts are flexible, resilient, and capable of adapting to forthcoming legislative and regulatory changes. This re-procurement will allow the borough to build in requirements that reflect national reforms and secure long term, value for money arrangements that can evolve as the policy landscape continues to shift.

7 Water and Drainage

- 7.1 High population density combined with limited resources means that water resources in London need to be carefully planned and managed. Water consumption in London is higher than the national average for England and Wales despite being one of the driest parts of the country. The GLA confirmed that in 2021/22, London's average water daily water consumption was 144.1 litres per capita, down from 152.2 litres per capita in 2020/21³¹. This is higher than the average water consumption in England which was 136.5 litres in 2024/25³², as reported by the Environment Agency.
- 7.2 London and the Southeast have been classified as areas under serious water stress³³ and there is increasing pressure on water resources as can be seen in figure 8 below:

³¹ [Water Use](#)

³² [Water resources 2024 to 2025: analysis of the water industry's annual water resources performance - GOV.UK](#)

³³ [Water stressed areas – 2021 classification - GOV.UK](#)

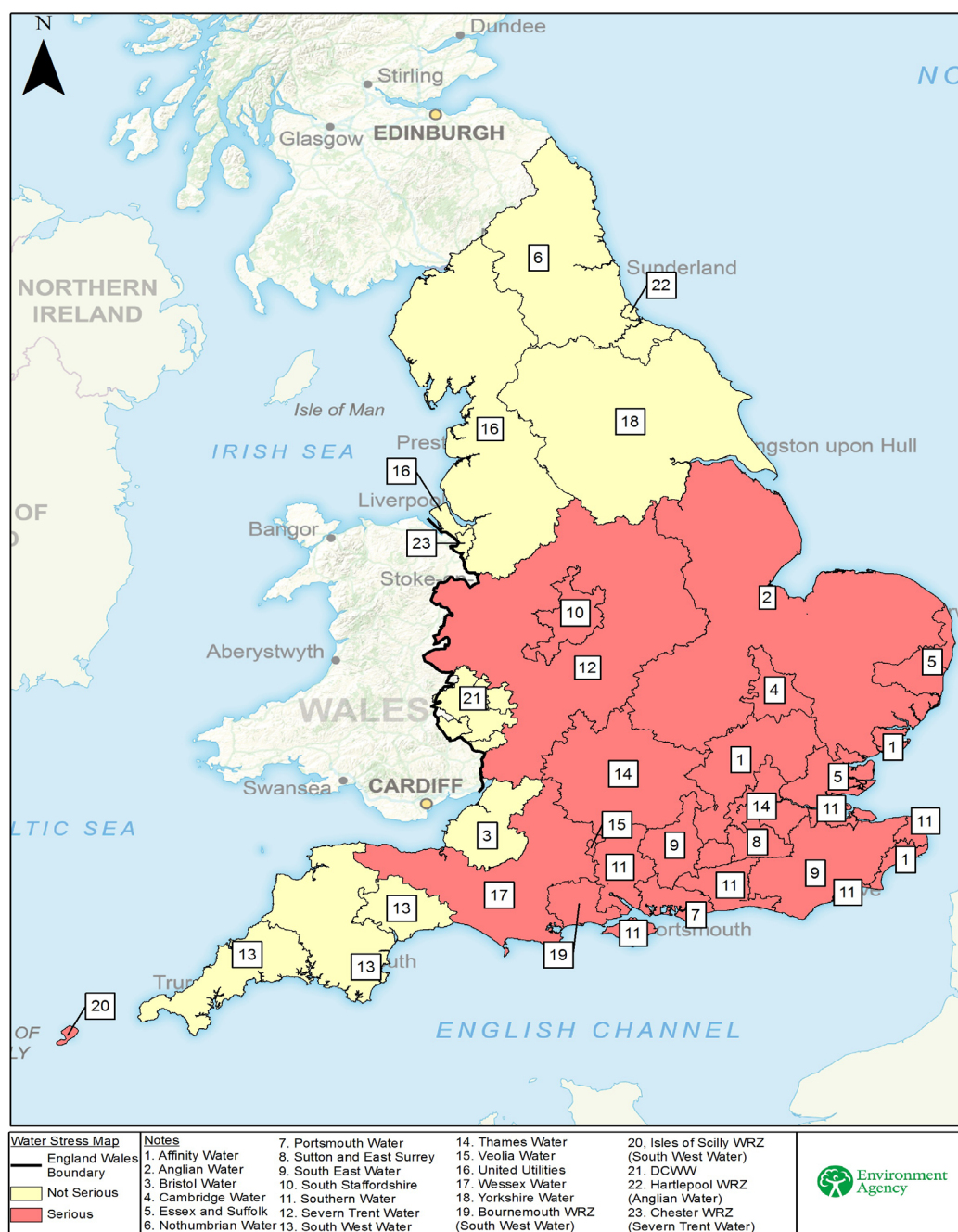


Figure 8 Areas of relative water stress 2021

- 7.3 London is served by four water companies and Royal Greenwich falls within the Thames Water Region. It is the responsibility of Thames Water to plan for current and future water supply and demand in London taking into consideration factors such as current water usage, population growth, predicted housing growth and climate change. The Environment Agency have a role ensuring abstraction does not affect bio-diversity and ecology and Thames Water must also have regard to this.

Existing Provision

- 7.4 Water supply is planned and managed based on Water Resource Zones where all customers in this zone have the same water supply risk. Royal Greenwich is part of the London Water Resource Zone.
- 7.5 Under the current assessment of water resource availability for the next 25 years, the supply demand deficit in the London Water Resource Zone is now assessed to be 178.3 million litres per day, replacing the previous estimate of 59.4 million litres per day. The future modelling shows that the deficit is due to worsen significantly, with London's baseline Dry Year Annual Average (DYAA) deficit reaching around 450 million litres per day by 2050, highlighting the substantial pressure on London's water resources to continue meeting the needs of current and future populations³⁴. This pressure will be further intensified by the scale of anticipated housing growth across the capital.
- 7.6 Water supplies are derived from a combination of surface water (from rivers) and groundwater (water holding rock formations, known as aquifers). In London, the supply is primarily derived from the surface waters of the River Thames and River Lee, via reservoirs. There are four reservoirs in Royal Greenwich: Castlewood (Eltham reservoir), Oxleas Wood reservoir, East Wickham reservoir and Eltham reservoir. However, due to the topography of the borough and the effect this has on water pressure, most of the boroughs water supply comes from other areas of London such as Honor Oak Pumping Station and Nunhead Upper Reservoir³⁵. There is also a desalination plant in Beckton which takes water from the Thames estuary, removes the salt, and treats the water. It is an important reserve but is a last resort as it is expensive and energy intensive.

Future Provision

- 7.7 Thames Water Resources Management Plan 2024 (TWRMP)³⁶ is a strategic document that covers the years 2025- 2075, setting out how Thames Water will secure a reliable and sustainable water supply to meet projected population growth, while also protecting and enhancing the environment across its service area.
- 7.8 Under the WRMP24 Thames Water has updated and expanded the resource planning work which was undertaken in earlier WRMPs. In the first instance, Thames Water seeks to prioritise making the best use of water that is already available by reducing leakage; installing more water meters and providing more help for people to use water more efficiently. The plan confirms that the previous water resource options have been re-evaluated, while also developing new ones. These include:
- Southeast Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) or Abingdon Reservoir: a new reservoir in Oxfordshire, with different sizes being considered
 - Severn to Thames Transfer (STT): a transfer of water from the River Severn to the River Thames, which could involve the use of resources owned and operated by United Utilities and/or Severn Trent Water to increase the resilience and supply benefit of such a transfer
 - London Water Recycling: water recycling schemes whereby effluent from sewage treatment works would be treated to a very high standard, suitable for discharge to

³⁴ [Uncertainty and Baseline Supply Demand Balance](#)

³⁵ [Charlton to Bexley Riverside Integrated Water Management Strategy 2017](#)

³⁶ [Water resources | Regulation | About us | Thames Water](#)

rivers and re-abstraction for drinking water purposes. Several different locations and technologies are being considered within the umbrella of the London Water Recycling Strategic Reservoir Option (SRO)

- 7.9 In the first instance, The WRPM24 seeks to prioritise making the best use of water available in the shorter time by reducing leakages and improving customer behaviour by educating customers, and there are also new schemes that are listed below.
- Reduce the amount of water lost through leaks in our network and customer pipes by 23% by 2030, saving over 100 Ml/d of water as well as meet the government priority of halving leakage by 2050.
 - To support the target of 110 litres per person per day by 2050, Thames Water will help educate customers on water consumption in a effort to change behaviours
 - Installing or upgrading a further 1,500,000 smart meters to homes and businesses by 2030.
 - New schemes to provide sustainable, resilient sources of water
 - New river abstraction at Teddington, whereby a new intake structure will be built on the bank of the River Thames to take the water from the river.
 - A new Southeast Strategic Reservoir Option (SERO) which will be creating a new storage reservoir. The scheme would supply water for Affinity Water, Southern Water and Thames Water customers.
 - New groundwater sources, water transfers and licence agreements, this includes Thames to Southern Transfer and Thames to Affinity Transfer.
- 7.10 The Royal Borough will continue to work with Thames Water to address these issues. The Royal Borough will ensure developers consider the water infrastructure necessary to support their developments and the measures needed to reduce water usage.
- 7.11 In addition, all wastewater companies are required to produce Drainage Wastewater Management Plans (DWMP) to provide the basis for more collaborative and integrated long-term planning by water companies, working with other organisations that have responsibilities relating to drainage, flooding and protection of the environment.

Flood Risk Management

- 7.12 Following the devastating floods of 2007, the Pitt Review was undertaken which lead to the introduction of the Flood Risk Regulations (FRR) 2009 and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Under this legislation, the Royal Borough is a Lead Local Flood authority (LLFA) and has roles and responsibilities which include developing a Local Flood Risk Strategy, which was produced in 2015.
- 7.13 Royal Greenwich manages local flood risk in accordance with its role as LLFA and works in partnership with other risk management authorities and stakeholders across London. The borough is guided by the London Surface Water Strategy³⁷ by the GLA and delivered by the Flood Ready London Partnership, which brings together London Boroughs, the Environment Agency, London Councils, Thames Water, TfL and other partners to improve coordinated planning, delivery and resilience to surface water flooding. The London Surface Water strategy builds on earlier evidence gathering and mapping work from the previous Drain

³⁷ [London Surface Water Strategy | London City Hall](#)

London project such as Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments and Surface Water Management Plans, which continue to inform local flood risk management, capital investment and maintenance decisions at the borough level. Royal Greenwich also participates in sub-regional flood risk partnerships, including the Southeast London Flood Risk Management Partnership, and will continue to work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities and other risk-management bodies to manage local flood risk and support delivery of the London Surface Water Strategy objectives.

- 7.14 The borough is susceptible to three types of flooding: tidal, fluvial and surface water. Tidal flood risk from the River Thames is extensive and most of the north of the Borough falls within Flood Zone 3. The Royal Borough is also at risk of fluvial flooding in certain areas alongside the River Quaggy, Ravensbourne, Shuttle, Deptford Creek and Butts Canal. Surface water flooding varies across the borough according to topography as can be seen in the Environment Agency Surface Water Flood Risk Map. The provision of flood risk infrastructure is therefore imperative to maintain the safety of the current and future population.
- 7.15 The Environment Agency are responsible for flood risk management for the River Thames. The Thames Estuary (TE2100) Plan³⁸ is a long term strategy which sets out how the Environment Agency and partners will manage flood risk in the Estuary up to the year 2100 and beyond. Currently the Thames Tidal System is made up of 18km of tidal defences such as embankments and walls, the Thames Barrier, other major barriers and other active assets such as pumping stations and gates.
- 7.16 The existing Thames Barrier is a key piece of infrastructure within the borough and the Environment Agency are planning its reliable and effective operation as part of the wider flood system until 2070. The TE2100 plan identifies the future of the flood defence system, and the options currently being considered for the borough are; upgrading the Thames Barrier so that it can manage higher storm tide with sea level rise and converting the existing Thames Barrier by adding a second set of gates and locks. These options may need surrounding land to enable the associated works.
- 7.17 The TE2100 plan introduces a Riverside Strategy Approach (RSA) to promote early and collaborative planning for riverfront areas, ensuring that flood defence raising and tidal flood protection are integrated with placemaking, regeneration and growth. In line with the TE2100 Plan, Royal Greenwich will produce a riverside strategy by 2030, setting out a coordinated, long-term approach to managing tidal flood risk along the borough's riverside. This strategy will guide how the riverside may need to be reshaped over time to make people and places safer, while also creating opportunities to deliver the wider benefits identified in the TE2100 Plan.
- 7.18 The TE2100 Plan identifies three flood risk management policy areas within the Royal Borough of Greenwich: Greenwich and Wandsworth to Deptford both subject to Policy 5 (P5) and Thamesmead, which falls under Policy 4 (P4). Under Policy 5, the Environment Agency and its partners are required not only to upgrade flood defences to keep pace with climate-change-driven sea-level rise, but also to increase the standard of flood protection

³⁸ [Thames Estuary 2100 \(TE2100\) - GOV.UK](#)

over time. In contrast, Policy 4 requires action to ensure that flood risk does not increase, by maintaining defences in response to climate and land-use change.

- 7.19 Whilst the Environment Agency is responsible for managing flood risk from large rivers such as the Thames, the Quaggy and Kidbrooke, the Royal Borough is responsible for local flood risk, which is flood risk from surface water (rainfall) groundwater and ordinary watercourses. These are smaller rivers and streams or in some instances ditches.
- 7.20 The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) 2015, which is currently being updated outlines the strategy and long-term action plan for the management of local flood risk in the borough. It suggests several measures to help reduce the risk of flooding including intercepting run off, rainwater harvesting, green roofs, permeable paving, natural flood management and de-paving wherever possible. Developments also need to ensure better flood risk and surface water management and the use of SuDS.
- 7.21 The Royal Borough also seeks to work closely with internal partners to identify opportunities to reduce flood risk, especially opportunities to de-pave parks and open spaces and manage run off. There is also a need to work closely with businesses, residents and developers; producing guidance on expectations for design for developers and guidance on water efficiency and DIY projects for residents. The LFRMS action plan also recognises a need to improve knowledge of the local flood risk and undertake a boroughwide study on ground water flooding.
- 7.22 The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was reviewed in 2017 to take account of the significant changes in the legislative framework for flood risk management (Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and Flood and Water Management Act 2010) and the introduction of the NPPF and PPG. Additionally, the Environment Agency has refined breach models relating to tidal flood risk from the Thames and updated climate change projections.
- 7.23 A level 2 SFRA was also carried out in 2018 to assess further risk to the sites identified in the draft Site Allocations Local Plan. A Level 2 SFRA is prepared when land outside flood risk areas cannot accommodate the necessary development and therefore the Exception Test needs to be applied. The purpose of the Exception Test is to ensure that, where it may be necessary to locate development in areas at risk of flooding, new development is only permitted in Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3 where the flood risk is clearly outweighed by other sustainability factors and where the development will be safe during its lifetime, considering climate change.
- 7.24 Royal Borough of Greenwich faces the challenge of meeting the need for new development within some areas that have already been identified at risk of fluvial and surface water flooding, as well as large areas along the tidal River Thames floodplain, which are at residual risk of tidal flooding in the event of a breach or failure of the flood defence system. The areas expected to see high levels of growth as identified in the Local Plan are largely located in Flood Zone 3. As a result, developments that are found to be acceptable in the flood zone will need to carefully consider how to mitigate flood risk and incorporate flood resilience and resistance measures.

The Marsh Dykes and Southmere Lake

- 7.25 The Marsh Dykes and Southmere Lake system is a critical component of surface water management for Thamesmead, operating within a highly constrained hydrological environment

characterised by low-lying topography, tidal influences, high groundwater levels and an ageing artificial drainage network. Reduced capacity resulting from widespread sedimentation, submerged infrastructure and limited maintenance opportunities has increased reliance on pumped drainage and created growing vulnerability during prolonged wet periods.

- 7.26 Since 2025, concerns have been raised by the Lead Local Flood Authorities regarding surface water capacity within the Marsh Dykes catchment, although these concerns have not yet been formally demonstrated through strategic studies. In response, the Greater London Authority, supported by the Environment Agency and the Royal Borough of Greenwich, is preparing a GLA-led Integrated Water Management Strategy (IWMS) for the Marsh Dykes. This work is intended to build robust evidence base and to inform a long-term, coordinated approach to sustainable drainage and capacity improvements that can adapt to projected population growth over the Local Plan period.
- 7.27 An initial Pre-IWMS is being undertaken to establish a baseline understanding of current system performance, address data gaps and agree a shared position among key stakeholders. This work does not include hydraulic modelling and therefore cannot determine whether the existing drainage and wastewater systems have sufficient capacity to support planned development.
- 7.28 Asset ownership and maintenance responsibilities across the catchment are fragmented, with no coordinated, system-wide maintenance regime currently in place. This has contributed to declining system performance and presents an ongoing constraint to future growth. Further site investigations, followed by a full IWMS, will be required to confirm system capacity and identify the interventions necessary to support existing communities and planned development. In the interim, it is important that the Local Plan, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Infrastructure Delivery Plan reflect acknowledged uncertainties, maintenance challenges and the need for additional investment in the drainage network.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

This section summaries the infrastructure requirements for social infrastructure including community facilities, cultural infrastructure, education, emergency services, health and social care and sports and Leisure facilities. Table 6 below summarises the key requirements for each section.

Table 6 Social Infrastructure key requirements

Key Infrastructure Requirements	
Community Facilities	Replacement of Thamesmere Leisure Centre with a multi-functional community hub integrating leisure, library, cultural and community provision
	Community space as part of a community hub in the redevelopment of Charlton Riverside
Cultural Infrastructure	RBG will continue to support and grow its cultural offer in key locations such as Thamesmead and Charlton Riverside.
Education	A new all through school will need to be provided as part of the Charlton Riverside redevelopment
	As the Thamesmead and Abbey Wood Opportunity Framework and Thamesmead Waterfront New Town comes forward 3.5 x 3FE primary schools will be needed in the area
	The Council will continue to review options to meet the increasing demand for SEND places.
Emergency Services	Outside RBG control, emergency services looking to rationalise estate and collaborate where possible.
	A new neighbourhood police office is needed in Charlton Hornfair
Health and Social Care	A health and community hub is needed in Charlton Riverside and either new health hub or refurbishment/extension of existing facilities in Thamesmead as recently provided at Kidbrooke Village.
	In other areas, health floorspace is likely to need expanding and reconfiguring to align with the way the provision of health care is changing and meet the needs of the existing population.
Sports and Leisure	Swimming pool on Greenwich Peninsula (as per the masterplan)
	Protect access to Greenwich Park for mini soccer and half size AGP at Millennium School
	Actively promote underused parks pitches, MUGAs and other informal facilities for football as demand for informal sports increases

	Maintain and improve school sports facilities and Increase access to school facilities including outside of term time
	Lawn Tennis Association investigating potential for an indoor tennis facility based on increasing demand
	Thamesmere Leisure Centre requires replacement to accommodate the scale of growth identified in the Thamesmead and Abbey Wood Opportunity Area Planning Framework (OAPF)
Green Infrastructure	Production of a new Royal Greenwich Biodiversity Action Plan to guide biodiversity enhancement in the borough.
	Maintaining 12 existing parks meeting Green Flag or other quality standards to that quality level and working with community groups to secure further quality awards including Community Green Flag awards.
	Improving Birchmere Park in Thamesmead using £20 million of long-term government Pride of Place funding.

8 Community Facilities

- 8.1 For the purposes of the IDP, Community facilities include community centres, halls and libraries. These facilities make an essential contribution to the health and well-being of residents and provide affordable venues for them to enjoy accessible, welcoming and diverse activities which help to build inclusive and strong communities. The local plan seeks to protect community facilities and ensure they stay in community use wherever possible.
- 8.2 Whilst this list is not exhaustive, other community uses that also form an important contribution include:
- Buildings used by voluntary sector groups
 - Social service and day centres
 - Places of public worship or religious instruction
 - Medical or health services, and healthy living centres (except for the use of premises attached to the residence of the consultant or practitioner)
 - Fire safety, policing and other criminal justice and community safety facilities
 - Facilities for youth provision
 - Sport, leisure and recreational facilities
 - Arts and cultural facilities
 - Crèches, day nurseries or other childcare facilities
 - Schools, education and training centres
 - Ancillary community uses
 - Public toilets
- 8.3 However, these community facilities are either covered in other relevant sections of the IDP or are left to market forces in terms of future infrastructure planning.

Existing provision

- 8.4 Currently, facilities in the Borough include:
- 12 libraries
 - 30 community centres or halls either run by the council or community associations
- 8.5 Community centres offer a wide range of activities and services to many different sections of the local community, from affordable meeting venues to bingo and fitness classes. They have an important social value and a positive impact on health and wellbeing, reducing social isolation and building community cohesion. The Royal Borough of Greenwich recognises the importance of community facilities and will continue to support them.

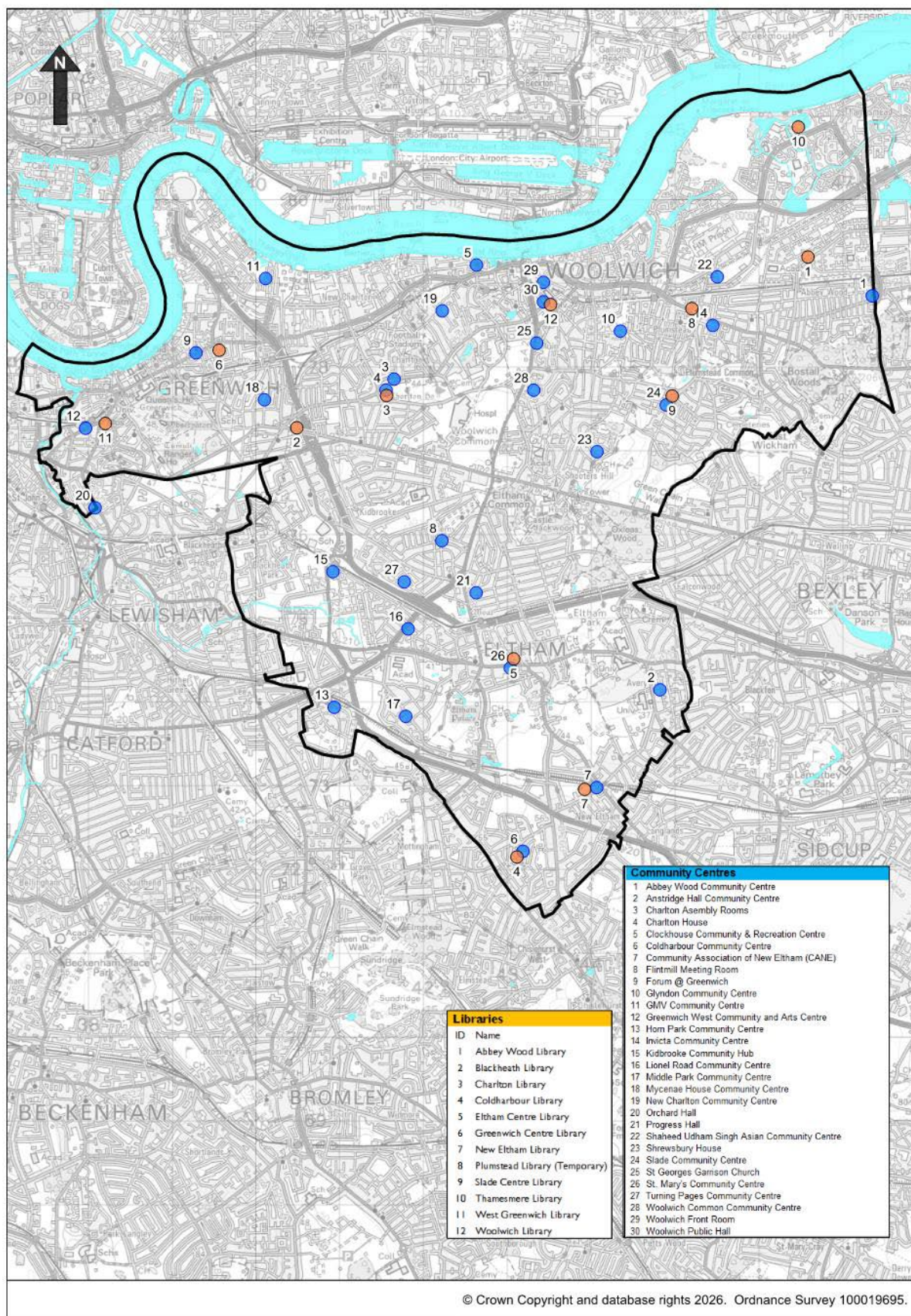


Figure 9 Map of community facilities

- 8.6 Libraries are also valuable assets to the local community offering valuable meeting spaces, study space, computer access and a wide range of books and resources. They also have an important social role in the community with many borough libraries running a wide array of classes. For example, The Woolwich Centre Library runs a weekly programme including coffee mornings, knit and natter, reading groups, learning courses, mindfulness and fitness classes and baby rhyme time in various languages to reflect the ethnically diverse community

Future Provision

- 8.7 As set out in the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy 2017-2022, the high cost of premises in London creates an expensive environment in which smaller organisations are struggling to find suitable affordable space to deliver services and activities. At the same time, many publicly owned buildings need investment to ensure they are fit for purpose and are suitable for the changing profile of use.
- 8.8 To address these challenges, the Royal Borough seeks to maximise the use of available and suitable facilities to create multi-use spaces which share resources. This may involve maximising existing available facilities such as school sports halls or church halls that serve a multi-purpose function, or it may involve consolidating numerous single use premises into larger multi-purpose spaces.
- 8.9 For example, the Eltham Centre accommodates the leisure centre, library and office space and is well used by the local community. Similarly, the Woolwich Centre includes the main Royal Borough of Greenwich offices and an extensive library which is extremely well used. In addition, Woolwich Waves, a recently opened, purpose-built leisure centre, significantly enhances community provision in the town centre, offering modern swimming facilities, a fitness suite, bookable rooms and studios, family-focused activities and a cafe. Lastly, Plumstead Library (a Grade II listed building), which re-opened in February 2020, underwent a major transformation into a multifunctional library, leisure, culture and sports centre. The refurbishment reactivated its presence as a community hub on the high street, making it a more valuable and accessible space for all members of the community. A new health and well-being community centre has also been built at Kidbrooke, providing rooms for hire, GP services, social prescribing, and plans for creative and cultural activities alongside desk space for the local community.
- 8.10 Making the best use of assets in this way allows a wider range of services to be offered and generates higher footfall. This increases the viability of centres making them more sustainable and adaptable to the changing needs of the local community and increasing population now and in the future.
- 8.11 Future growth is expected to be highest in the north of the borough with at least 6,000 homes planned in Charlton Riverside and up to 15,500 in Thamesmead. The current Thamesmere Leisure Centre and library in Thamesmead town centre is the oldest leisure facility in the borough, and given its age, layout and overall condition, combined with the scale of growth associated with the Thamesmead and Abbey Wood OAPF and the proposed DLR extension, replacement rather than refurbishment is treated as the baseline requirement. The replacement should take the form of a multi-functional community hub, integrating leisure, library, cultural and community provision, with flexible space for community events and study space, supported by the adjoining vacant land identified in the Site Allocations Local Plan. Alternatively, a community hub may be created at Gallions Reach by expanding the existing health centre.

- 8.12 Similarly, with the level of growth expected in Charlton Riverside, a multi-use facility will need to be provided that functions as a health and well-being centre and provides community health services alongside opportunities for social integration. It should be a space that encourages health and well-being by combining a range of services which complement the primary health function such as nurseries, youth provision, a sports hall or indoor MUGA and a general purpose affordable rentable space large enough for residents and community groups and private hire. The space will need to be well designed and flexible in order to meet a wide array of community needs and could potentially be subdivided into smaller spaces when not being used to maximise its usage.
- 8.13 Considering the level of housing growth on the Peninsula, the area could benefit from library provision in the form of a multi-use community building that provides space for computer access, study space, community meetings and fitness classes.

9 Cultural Infrastructure

- 9.1 Cultural Infrastructure is vital to London's success and is responsible for generating £52 billion a year. The Mayor of London has produced a [Cultural Infrastructure Map and a Plan](#) that sets out priorities for protecting and enhancing our cultural and creative facilities – both public facing for residents and visitors and production facilities to ensure we can incubate and accelerate creative talent and IP and invest in our creative economy.
- 9.2 The Mayor of London defines cultural Infrastructure as places where culture is consumed or produced. For example; public facing infrastructure such as museums, theatres, galleries, cinemas and music venues (consumption) or creative arts spaces, artists' studios, performing arts spaces, arts schools, recording studios, pre/post production facilities for TV/Film and industrial and light industrial units used by creative and cultural businesses (production).
- 9.3 Culture infrastructure is where our creative industries innovate, create, produce and flourish. Creative industries have their origins in individual creativity, skill and talent which are used to create businesses such as advertising, architecture, design, fashion, gaming, television, radio and film.

Existing Provision

- 9.4 The Royal Borough of Greenwich is rich in culture and home to a range of arts and heritage assets. Tourism is at an all-time high with 19.37 million tourists visiting the borough each year. Although hotel provision is noticeably low, with a lack of boutique offer.
- 9.5 The borough is home to a multitude of tourist attractions including the world-famous Greenwich Market, the Royal Museums and the UNESCO World Heritage site featuring our maritime history, as well as the busiest and most popular music venue in the world the O2 Arena. Woolwich Works, Tramshed Royal, our Palaces, historic houses, the Winter Garden, Blackheath and Greenwich Park are also great cultural destinations hosting a range of events and activities and extend our offer.
- 9.6 Royal Greenwich has held a number of events and festivals over the years to celebrate its rich and diverse culture including the Woolwich Carnival, Tall Ships Regatta, Greenwich and Docklands International Festival, Armed Forces Day and the annual London Marathon covered by BBC throws a global spotlight on the borough's sites and locations.
- 9.7 Royal Greenwich is also establishing itself as a Borough of Production, in line with the Mayor's Thames Estuary Production Corridor. Featuring the Design District on the Peninsula, Woolwich Creative District, Arts Hub and Thameside Artists Studios and the emerging heritage District in Charlton.
- 9.8 We are home to leading cultural and higher education institutions, including the University of Greenwich, Ravensbourne University London, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance and Woolwich.

Design District Greenwich Peninsula

- 9.9 The Design District has 150,000 sq ft of workspace, studios and flexible spaces with affordable rents for small businesses to grow. A market hall is at the heart of the district, offering multifunctional event space, food stalls and craft wares made in the design district.

There are also rooftop terraces, bars, a roof top basketball court and retail outlets with rotating work from the district on display.

- 9.10 The Peninsula is also home to Magazine London, a new event space which opened in September 2019 and the largest of its kind in London. The flexible space boasts interior space for up to 3,000 people and can extend to accommodate a further 7,000 people across the outdoor showground.

Woolwich Works

- 9.11 In October 2018, planning permission was granted for the first phase of a multi-million-pound restoration of historic buildings, to create a 15,000sqm creative complex on the Royal Arsenal. Woolwich works opened in 2021 and includes:
- A performance venue for up to 900 seated or 1800 standing (Punchdrunk occupy two entirely separate buildings)
 - A courtyard space accommodating around 600 people
 - Studios, offices for resident companies, and a recording studio supporting emerging artists
 - Public amenities such as a café/bar
 - Additional facilities, including a separate building leased by the Acosta Dance Foundation with four studios
- 9.12 Woolwich Creative District Trust, the independent registered charity established to run Woolwich Works, has a commitment to community access, participation and improving residents' quality of life. The venue hosts a wide range of activities, including concerts, theatre, dance, comedy, conferences, workshops and community events, and collaborates with diverse cultural and commercial organisations.
- 9.13 It currently employs 97 people and works with 81 volunteers. The creative district also has a broad economic impact on Woolwich and the surrounding areas, attracting visitors from across the borough and beyond.
- 9.14 There is also a growing commercial landscape for on location filming across the borough with the World Heritage Site one of the leading locations in the city for filming, and an evolving marketplace for a wider offer, driven by Visit Greenwich and a partnership with Film Fixer.
- 9.15 According to the Mayor's Cultural Infrastructure Plan, cultural infrastructure has been declining in recent years. An increasing population means continued pressure for housing coupled with rising property prices and increasing costs for space is proving too much for many cultural facilities to survive. Noticeably, our artists studios provision is very fragile with few permanent affordable spaces for the 1000s of artists working in the borough, we have few grassroots music venues to drive our evening economy, there are no producing theatres that invest in new work or new writing, there is no high profile contemporary art gallery, we do not have public art or street murals programmes, and there is little specific and affordable provision on offer for more diverse/faith based communities to invest in and celebrate our diverse cultures.
- 9.16 The Royal Borough of Greenwich has a range of cultural infrastructure spread across the borough including:

Table 7 Places where culture is consumed

Music Venues From grass roots music venues to the International O2 arena. Music venues have been increasingly under threat	O2 arena Studio 338, Greenwich Peninsula Music Mill, Plumstead Blackheath Halls, Blackheath Oliver's Jazz Bar, Greenwich Red Lion, Shooters Hill The Bull Hotel, Shooters Hill The Long Pond, Eltham Post Office Public House, Eltham The British Oak, Old Dover Road Pelton Arms, Greenwich Trinity Laban Faculty of Music, Greenwich The Admiral Hardy, Greenwich Coach and Horses, Greenwich The Duke Greenwich Dial Arch, Woolwich The Guard house, Woolwich Woolwich Works Tramshed
Visitor Attractions	O2 Eltham Palace National Maritime Museum The Fan Museum The Royal Observatory Old Royal Naval College The Cutty Sark Rangers House Charlton House Woolwich Town Hall Tudor Barn Winter Gardens Greenwich Park Blackheath

Cinemas	Odeon IMAX, Bugsby Way
	Cineworld, the O2
	Greenwich Picture house, Greenwich
	Vue Cinema Eltham
Theatres	Greenwich Theatre
	Bob Hope Theatre, Eltham
	Bathway Theatre (Greenwich University)
	Tramshed
	Woolwich Works
Galleries & Museums	The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich
	Royal Observatory Greenwich
	The Greenwich Gallery
	The Stephen Lawrence Gallery
	Heritage Gallery, Greenwich (part of University)
	MI Fine Art, Greenwich
	The Flood Gallery, Greenwich
	Ben Oakley Gallery, Greenwich
	Made in Greenwich, Greenwich
	JonaQuestArt, Greenwich
	Greenwich Printmakers Gallery, Greenwich
	Origin Gallery, Greenwich
	The Green Parrot Gallery, Greenwich
	The Art of Robert Sutherland, Greenwich
	Atelier JI Fine Art Print Making Studio, Charlton
	Thameside Studios Gallery, Woolwich
	Woolwich Contemporary Print Fair, Woolwich
	Capital Arts Gallery, Well Hall
	The Now Gallery, Greenwich Peninsula
	War Gallery, Lee
	The Fan Museum, Greenwich
	Abbey Wood Library
	Blackheath Library

Libraries	Charlton Library Coldharbour Library Eltham Centre Library Greenwich Centre Library New Eltham Library Plumstead Library Slade Centre Library Thamesmere Library West Greenwich Library Woolwich Centre Library
Comedy Clubs	Up the Creek Comedy Club
Markets	Woolwich Market Greenwich Market Royal Arsenal Riverside Farmer's Market Kidbrooke Village Sunday Market

9.17 Community centres also offer valuable space for cultural activities to take place, from dance classes to music lessons. Further details on community centres in the borough are in section 8.

9.18 The Royal Borough of Greenwich is also home to a range of places where culture is produced, and these are listed in the table below.

Table 8 Places where culture is produced

Studio Spaces	Punchdrunk Studios Woolwich Creative District The Design District Tramshed Thameside Studio Space, Charlton (home to over 450 artist and creative studios) Art Hub, Westminster Industrial Estate Hanger Art Trust, Woolwich AZOF, Greenwich ACAVA Norman House, Greenwich Crixus Studios, Dockyard Industrial Estate, Greenwich Peninsula
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	Old Town Hall Artist and Creative Workspace (opening Summer 2027)
Performing Arts Venues	Blackheath Halls, Blackheath Kings Charles Court, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich The Tramshed, Woolwich OMJ24 Creative Space
Fashion Design and Manufacturing	FFGM, Woolwich Angela's Studio Ltd, Eltham Greenwich Sewing Atelier, Greenwich Karen Gold, Charlton The London Leather Workshop, Thameside Studios, Woolwich Fran Rios London, Woolwich
Makerspace and Manufacturers	Maze Hill Pottery, Maze Hill Greenwich Print Makers Association London Sculpture Workshop, Woolwich Thames Barrier Print Studio, Woolwich Creative Nature, Woolwich MDM Props, Greenwich Peninsula Elliot Ceramics, Woolwich Bubble House, Woolwich James Print and Production, Woolwich Nicholas Alexander, Woolwich Paye Stoneworks and Restoration, Mottingham S2 Events, Thamesmead
Music businesses and recording studios	45RPM Studio, Charlton Sound Performance LTD, Greenwich Suspect Records, Blackheath V records, Greenwich Pirate Studios, Charlton Abbey Music Studios, Abbey Wood SV Academy, Eltham

- 9.19 These creative workshops, studios and makerspaces tend to be clustered in the North of the borough particularly in and around Strategic Industrial Land in light industrial units where space is ample and rents are affordable. Thameside Studios in Charlton Riverside is the largest single site studio provider in the UK, with 455 studios run by Social Enterprise Company Second Floor Studios and Arts (SFSA). These studios are home to a range of creatives including artists, fashion designers, printers, photographers, sculptors, ceramics, designers and many more. However, whilst an affordable offer, these are privately owned, not permanent spaces in perpetuity.
- 9.20 The creative industry is one of the fastest growing parts of the national economy and is a key growth sector in the Royal Greenwich economy. There are a number of projects currently under construction or in the pipeline that will expand the boroughs cultural infrastructure even further including 21 new affordable artists and creative workspace in the Old Town Hall, Woolwich opening Summer 2027.

Future Provision

Thamesmead Cultural Infrastructure Plan

- 9.21 There are ambitious plans to for Thamesmead Waterfront to provide up to 15,000 new homes, thousands of jobs and new leisure, cultural and commercial facilities. Peabody has developed a [Cultural Infrastructure Plan](#) for Thamesmead which sets out a long-term approach to embed culture at the heart of regeneration. It focuses on creating a network of accessible cultural spaces, reusing underused buildings, supporting artists and local creative activity, and integrating culture into new developments, public realm and the wider economy. The plan also emphasises community co-creation, regular programming and cultural identity, using culture to drive jobs, strengthen local pride and shape Thamesmead into a vibrant, distinctive place where culture is part of everyday life.

Charlton Riverside

- 9.22 The Charlton Riverside area accommodates an existing cluster of creative industries businesses, in refurbished historic properties and new purpose-built industrial spaces. The area includes Thames-Side Studios, the largest single studio provider in the UK. With 8,000 new homes planned in the area, it is important that space for cultural production and consumption is included to retain, diversify and intensify the area's role in supporting the creative industries.
- 9.23 As set out above there is a wide range of existing cultural infrastructure across the borough and a number of developments in the pipeline that will see a significant increase in the supply of cultural infrastructure to support this expected level of growth and increased demand.
- 9.24 The Royal Borough of Greenwich recognises the importance of cultural infrastructure in making the borough an enjoyable and interesting place to live, work and visit and will continue to protect these spaces and encourage new ones ensuring that new residential development adds to the boroughs cultural infrastructure and does not drive it out.

10 Education

- 10.1 The Royal Borough of Greenwich has a statutory responsibility for ensuring that there are sufficient education places for children of all ages and needs to meet the level and pattern of demand from residents.
- 10.2 School place planning is informed by annually commissioned Greater London Authority (GLA) school roll projections. These projections draw on births data, GP registrations, Office for National Statistics (ONS) and GLA population estimates, school census data, migration patterns and assumptions about housing delivery and occupation. Projections are moderated locally to reflect admissions trends and operational intelligence. The evidence presented in this chapter reflects the May 2025-based GLA forecasts and the Council's School Place Planning and Capital Programme 2025/26–2027/28.

Early Years

Existing Provision

- 10.3 Early year's education and childcare is legislated for in the Childcare Act 2006 and 2016 and the Children's Act 2004. Early years education and childcare refers to childminders, nurseries and nursery schools. Local authorities have a duty to ensure there is sufficient high-quality childcare for working parents of children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). Royal Greenwich plays a strategic role in the provision of childcare locally; acting as a market facilitator rather than a provider and supporting providers across the sector to meet the needs of working parents and carers.
- 10.4 The delivery of Children's Centre services in Royal Greenwich has further evolved from a largely building-based network into a increased flexible, integrated and outreach model. Previously, services were delivered through an extensive network of centres forming the primary access points for early years and family services across defined local areas with boroughwide coverage. The revised model significantly reduces dedicated buildings and instead operates through a smaller number of core sites (including Best Start Family Hubs), alongside a broader network of partner and community venues. A number of former centre sites have been repurposed to support the expansion of childcare places and provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), while health visiting, midwifery and other services are increasingly delivered through shared spaces. The model adopts a "no wrong door" approach, enabling access through multiple locations and outreach delivery, and prioritises investment in frontline services. This approach reflects changing patterns of demand, the need to expand early years childcare in line with national entitlement reforms, and the Council's requirement to deliver services more flexibly and sustainably.
- 10.5 Early years education and childcare provision in Royal Greenwich is reviewed annually through the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, which assesses the availability, accessibility and quality of provision across the borough using the Greenwich Children's Centres Areas illustrated in figure 10 below. The latest Childcare Sufficiency Report (2025/26) confirms that the Council continues to meet its statutory duty to ensure sufficient childcare places overall, with provision delivered through a mixed market including private, voluntary and independent providers, schools and childminders. The Council's role remains one of strategic oversight and market facilitation, supporting providers to meet local need and maintain high-quality provision.

10.6 There are 623 childcare providers in the borough— of which there are 4 maintained nursery schools and 66 primary schools (including faith and special schools). There is nursery provision available at 54 primary schools. Just over half (55%) of the 623 childcare providers are registered childminders (364).

Future Provision

10.7 Table 9 below, taken from the Child Care Sufficiency Assessment 2025/26, illustrates that there is a need for 11,428 early years places by 2030 and there are already 11,917 places across the borough which are concentrated in the South and West of the borough. The number of children aged 0–4 is now expected to decrease by 4.1% by 2030, instead of slightly increasing, which could create a small oversupply of places. However, the full effects of expanded childcare entitlement (up to 1,140 hours for younger children) on parents' work patterns are still unclear, and having extra capacity may boost parents' confidence by offering more choice in a competitive market.

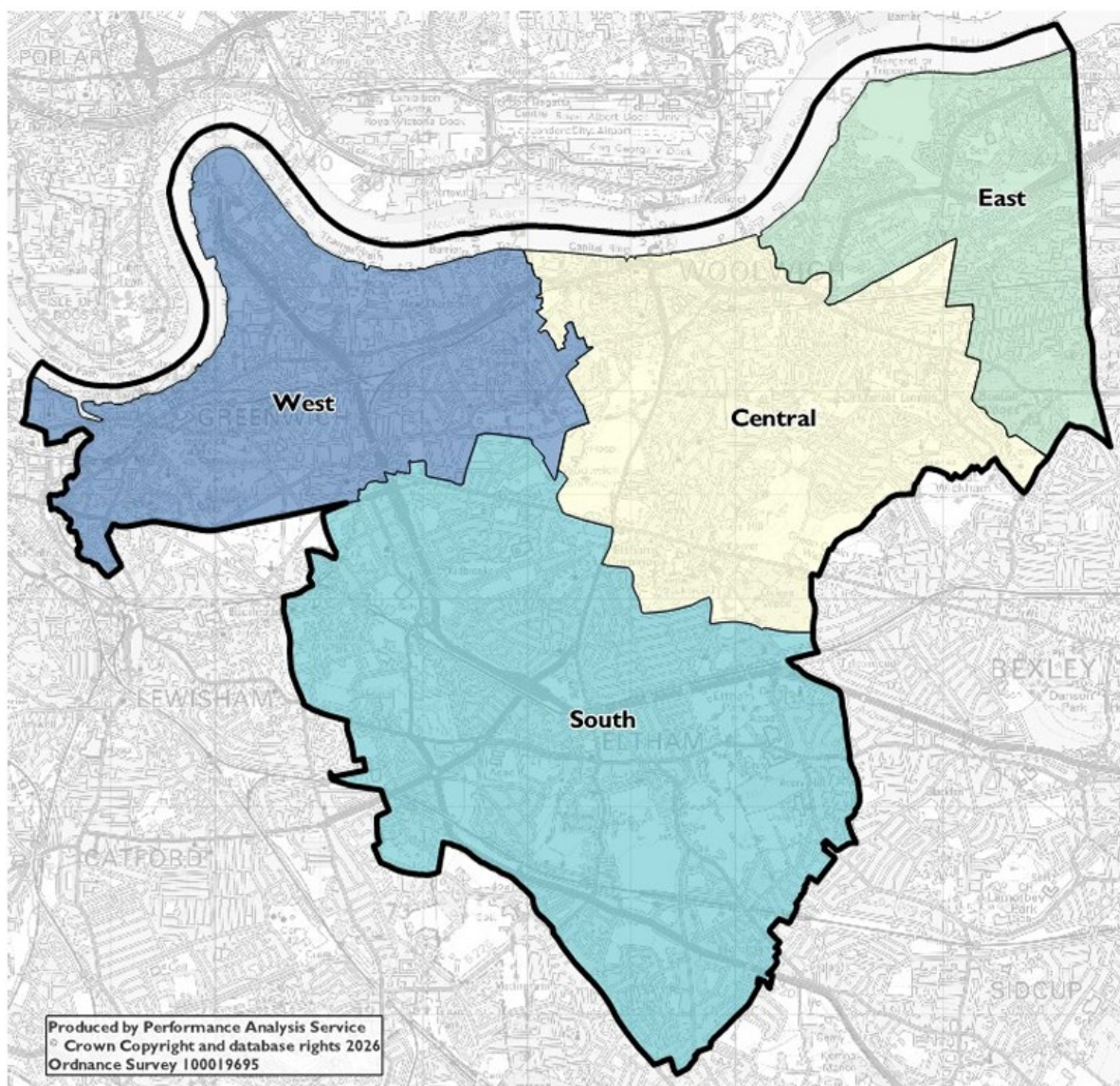


Figure 10 Royal Greenwich Children's Centre Areas

Table 9 Estimate full time equivalent early years places available and needed to 2030

Area	Childminder	Maintained nursery	Out of School	PVI	School	Special School	Grand total	Estimated 0-4 population change by 2029	FT shift based on population change	Est minimum FTE required for 2026
Central	475		177	1315	744	26	2738	-3.9%	-107	2631
East	354	78	125	478	442		1477	-1.2%	-18	1,459
South	638		759	1892	576		3865	-4.9%	-189	3676
West	301	376	538	2297	325		3838	-5%	-192	3646
Grand Total	1769	454	1599	5982	2087	26	11917	-4.1%	-489	11,428

10.8 Formal childcare provision across Royal Greenwich is currently sufficient, though demand is rising in key areas. In particular, there has been increased uptake of 30-hour funded places following the September 2025 expansion for working families, alongside continued growth in demand for places for babies and children aged 9–12 months. Despite overall capacity, recruitment challenges persist, with over half of PVI early years providers still reporting difficulties in hiring staff as of late 2025.

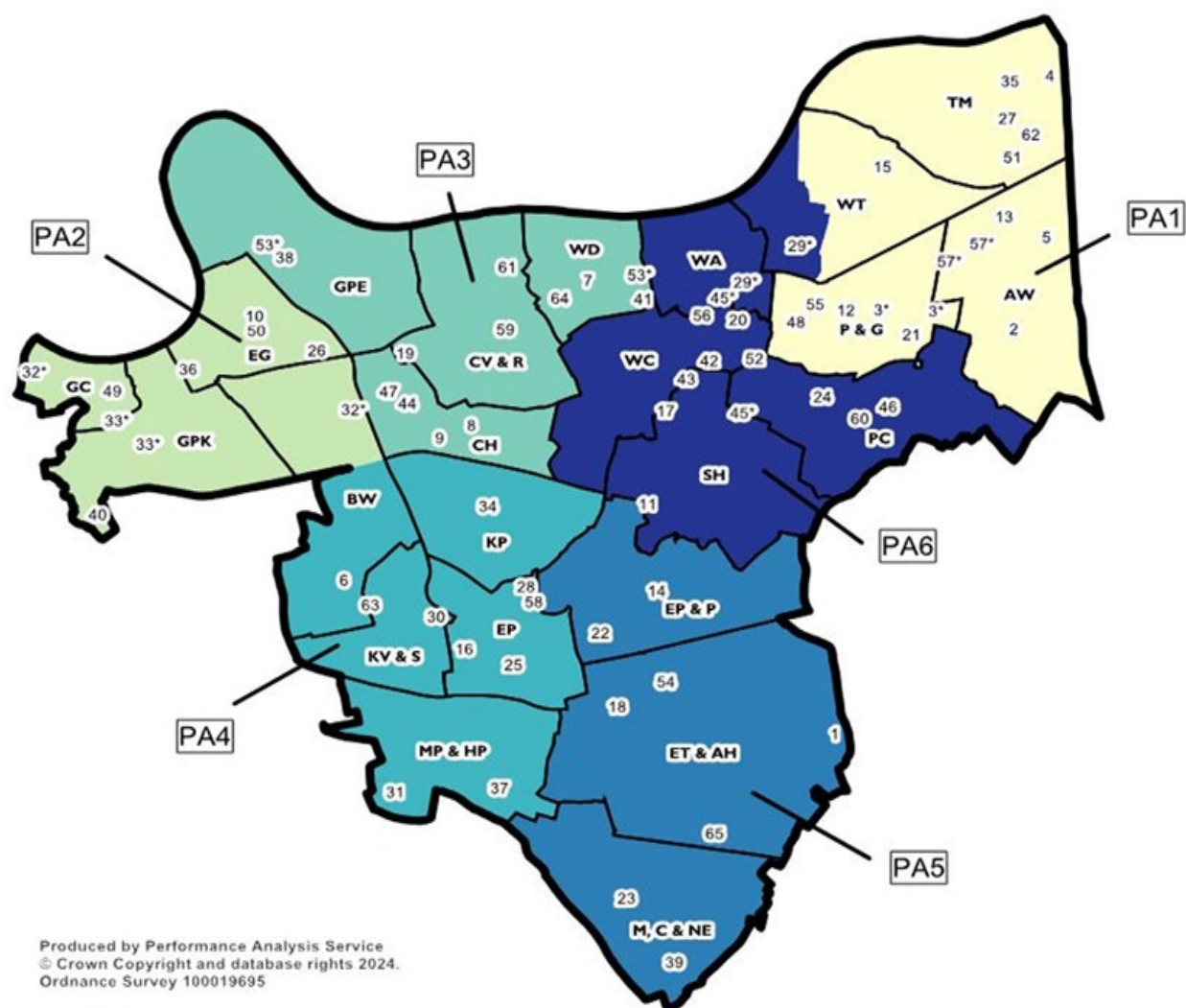
10.9 There is sustained demand for school-age childcare, particularly wraparound provision (breakfast and after-school clubs) and holiday provision, with increased interest in response to the Holiday Activities Fund and changing parental working patterns. Providers report demand for longer hours, extended days and more flexible provision. Tracking supply for school-age childcare is challenging because not all provision is Ofsted-registered, implying that current supply data may under-represent demand pressures, particularly for holiday and after-school care.

Primary Schools

Existing Provision

10.10 For primary school place planning purposes, the borough is divided into six geographical planning areas (PAs) as illustrated in the map below. These areas reflect the pattern of applications for places and groups of schools serving the neighbourhood.

10.11 There are currently 63 primary schools in the borough, the distribution of which can be seen in figure 11 below. This takes into account the closure of Holy Family RC school in 2024 and Gallions Mount Primary School in 2025. From May 2022 the Ward structure of the borough changed from 17 to 23 Wards. Subsequently, a review of the borough's six primary school place planning areas was undertaken, whilst taking account of school catchment areas. That process secured the necessary approval from the DfE and resulted in adjustments to the planning areas from 2023/24 which affected six schools.



AW	Abbey Wood	EP & P	Eltham Park & Progress	KV & S	Kidbrooke Village & Sutcliffe	SH	Shooters Hill
BW	Blackheath Westcombe	ET & AH	Eltham Town & Avery Hill	MP & HP	Middle Park & Horn Park	TM	Thamesmead Moorings
CH	Charlton Hornfair	GC	Greenwich Creekside	M, C &	Mottingham, Coldharbour	WT	West Thamesmead
CV & R	Charlton Village & Riverside	GPK	Greenwich Park	NE	& New Eltham	WA	Woolwich Arsenal
EG	East Greenwich	GPE	Greenwich Peninsula	P & G	Plumstead & Glyndon	WC	Woolwich Common
EP	Eltham Page	KP	Kidbrooke Park	PC	Plumstead Common	WD	Woolwich Dockyard

Primary schools			
1 Alderwood	16 Ealdham	32 Invicta*	49 St. Alfege with St Peter's CE
2 Alexander McLeod	17 Eglinton	33 James Wolfe*	50 St. Joseph's RC
3 Bannockburn*	18 Eltham CE	34 Kidbrooke Park	51 St. Margaret Clitherow RC
4 Bishop John Robinson	19 Fossdene	35 Linton Mead	52 St. Margaret's CE
5 Boxgrove	20 Foxfield	36 Meridian	53 St. Mary Magdalene CE*
6 Brooklands	21 Gallions Mount (closed 2025)	37 Middle Park	54 St. Mary's RC
7 Cardwell	22 Gordon	38 Millennium	55 St. Patrick's RC
8 Charlton Manor	23 Greenacres	39 Montbelle	56 St. Peter's RC
9 Cherry Orchard	24 Greenslade	40 Morden Mount	57 St. Thomas a Becket*
10 Christ Church (B/Wall)	25 Haimo	41 Mulgrave	58 St. Thomas More RC
11 Christ Church (S/Hill)	26 Halstow	42 Nightingale	59 Thorntree
12 Conway	27 Hawsmoor	43 Notre Dame RC	60 Timbercroft
13 De Lucy	28 Henwick	44 Our Lady Of Grace RC	61 Windrush Charlton
14 Deansfield	29 Heronsgate*	45 Plumcroft*	62 Windrush Thamesmead
15 Discovery	30 Holy Family RC (closed 2024)	46 Rockliffe Manor	63 Wingfield
	31 Horn Park	47 Sherington	64 Woodhill
		48 South Rise	65 Wyborne

*School located on two sites

Figure 11 Primary school place planning areas

Future Provision

10.12 Like most London Local Authorities, Royal Greenwich has been experiencing falling rolls in the mainstream sector of the primary phase. A study undertaken by [London Councils - Managing Surplus School Places in London \(2025\)](#) shows that on average, London boroughs are anticipating an ongoing decline in the demand for reception places of 3.6% from 2024/25 to 2028/29. Table 10 below summarises the change in school age population which has led to this decline in demand for places.

Table 10 Population change in primary school aged children (RBG School Place Planning Report 2025)

Area	Last five years	Next five years
PA1	-17%	-11%
PA2	-7%	-10%
PA3	-6%	-5%
PA4	-7%	-2%
PA5	-1%	-9%
PA6	-10%	-5%

10.13 In Planning area 1 (Abbey Wood, Plumstead & Glyndon, Thamesmead Moorings, West Thamesmead (part)) rapid growth in primary-aged population after 2009, and primary capacity was expanded by 7.5 forms of entry (FE) between 2010/11 and 2014/15. Since 2017/18, demand for Reception places has declined sharply. Between 2019/20 and 2026/27 several schools have reduced their Published Admission Numbers (PANs), and Gallions Mount Primary School closed in August 2025. Forecasts indicate that demand is expected to stabilise in the short term before declining again towards the end of the forecast period to 2029/30. Despite current surplus capacity, longer-term demand may increase as housing associated with the Abbey Wood and South Thamesmead Housing Zone is delivered. Provision will be kept under review to ensure flexibility to respond to changing demand.

10.14 In Planning area 2 (Blackheath Westcombe (part), Greenwich Park, East Greenwich and Greenwich Creekside), the primary-aged population is estimated to have fallen by nearly 7% over the five years to 2024. Capacity was previously increased by 5.5 FE between 2011/12 and 2015/16. Current Reception capacity exceeds demand, with a significant level of surplus places. Demand for Reception places is forecast to decline gradually over the medium term. No further expansions are required, and existing capacity is sufficient to meet need. Longer-term demand remains dependent on future housing delivery, but no immediate interventions are required.

10.15 In planning area 3 (Woolwich Dockyard, Charlton Hornfair, Greenwich Peninsula and Charlton Village and Riverside), Primary capacity in this area increased by 8 FE between 2010/11 and 2016/17 to support growth linked to major development areas. More recently, Reception demand has fallen. PAN reductions have been agreed at Woodhill (from 2023/24), Fossdene (from 2025/26) and St Mary Magdalene (from 2026/27). Demand is expected to

stabilise over the medium term. In the longer term, growth is anticipated as development at the Greenwich Peninsula and Charlton Riverside accelerates. New local primary provision is planned to meet future needs arising from these strategic growth locations, with timing dependent on housing build-out and occupation.

- 10.16 In planning area 4 (Blackheath Westcombe (part), Eltham Page, Kidbrooke Park, Kidbrooke Village & Sutcliffe, Middle Park & Horn Park), the primary-aged population has fallen by nearly 7% over the last five years. Holy Family RC Primary School closed in August 2024 due to falling rolls. Horn Park Primary School reduced its PAN from September 2025. Forecasts indicate broadly stable demand over the medium term, with sufficient capacity available following recent reductions. Provision will continue to be monitored to ensure that surplus places do not undermine school sustainability.
- 10.17 In planning area 5 (Eltham Park & Progress, Eltham Town & Avery Hill, Mottingham, Coldharbour & New Eltham), the primary-aged population has been relatively stable but is forecast to decline by around 9% to 2029. Capacity has remained largely unchanged, aside from a planned PAN reduction at Montbelle Primary School from September 2026. Demand for Reception places is expected to decline gradually. Existing provision is sufficient, and no new school places are required at present, but this position will be kept under review.
- 10.18 In Planning Area 6 (Plumstead Common, Shooters Hill, Woolwich Arsenal, Woolwich Common and part of West Thamesmead), primary school capacity increased by 5.6 forms of entry between 2010/11 and 2018/19 in response to earlier growth in demand. Although demand has declined in recent years, a small increase was recorded in 2024/25. To reflect this changing pattern, Heronsgate and St Margaret's CE reduced their published admissions numbers from September 2025. Current provision is considered sufficient, with forecasts indicating a gradual decline in demand over the medium term, and further reductions may be considered should surplus capacity persist.
- 10.19 In summary, it is clear from the School Place Planning and Capital Programme Report 2025, that the primary-aged population (5–10) is forecast to reduce by around 7% over the next five years, with demand for reception places continuing to decline across most planning areas. There is currently a borough-wide surplus of primary places, estimated at around 18% in 2024/25, even allowing for reasonable headroom to manage pupil movement. Without intervention, this level of surplus capacity would remain high in the medium term.
- 10.20 In response to falling mainstream pupil numbers and increasing surplus capacity, Royal Greenwich is implementing a proactive programme of school place management over the medium term. This includes targeted reductions in published admission numbers at schools in areas with the greatest over-supply, the closure of schools where demand has become unsustainable, and continued close monitoring of enrolment trends by planning area. The Council is also working with schools to manage surplus accommodation more effectively, including exploring alternative uses such as SEND provision or community facilities, while maintaining sufficient flexibility to meet in-year demand and statutory duties. This strategic approach aims to ensure a sustainable balance between supply and demand, protect the financial viability of schools, and retain capacity to respond to longer-term growth associated with future housing development.
- 10.21 While most planning areas show declining or stabilising demand, longer-term growth pressures are expected in parts of the north and north-west of the borough, linked to major

housing developments (e.g. Greenwich Peninsula, Thamesmead and Abbey Wood and Charlton Riverside). The Abbey Wood and Thamesmead Housing Zone and the draft Thamesmead Opportunity Area Framework will create a significant number of new homes in the area and a need for 3.5 x 3FE primary schools. A new all through school will also be required as part of the redevelopment of Charlton Riverside to meet additional demand for school places as a result of this development. However, population changes will continue to be monitored, and school place planning will be kept under review, with the scale and timing of provision in Thamesmead and Charlton adapted as necessary to reflect changes in population, including those arising from the development.

Secondary Schools

Existing Provision

- 10.22 The rise in pupil numbers in Royal Greenwich secondary schools, which began in 2013, has continued. In January 2025, there were 15,513 pupils on roll in Years 7-11 compared with 13,884 pupils in 2020, an increase of nearly 12% over the five-year period. Secondary school planning is undertaken on a borough-wide basis. From 2023/24 onwards, both applications and available places have shown a gradual decline, indicating a more balanced alignment between demand and supply.
- 10.23 There are currently 16 secondary schools within the borough as illustrated on the map below (figure 12).

Future Provision

- 10.24 Secondary school planning is boroughwide as older children can travel further and travel independently. Secondary school projections are based on actual school roll in primary schools, the pattern of children attending a Royal Greenwich primary school who transfer to a secondary school outside of the borough, the pattern of children from other boroughs transferring to Royal Greenwich secondary schools, and local assumptions about the completion of housing developments and the potential school age population they will bring.



AW	Abbey Wood	EP & P	Eltham Park & Progress	KV & S	Kidbrooke Village & Sutcliffe	SH	Shooters Hill
BW	Blackheath Westcombe	ET & AH	Eltham Town & Avery Hill	MP & HP	Middle Park & Horn Park	TM	Thamesmead Moorings
CH	Charlton Hornfair	GC	Greenwich Creekside	M, C &	Mottingham, Coldharbour	WT	West Thamesmead
CV & R	Charlton Village & Riverside	GPK	Greenwich Park	NE	& New Eltham	WA	Woolwich Arsenal
EG	East Greenwich	GPE	Greenwich Peninsula	P & G	Plumstead & Glyndon	WC	Woolwich Common
EP	Eltham Page	KP	Kidbrooke Park	PC	Plumstead Common	WD	Woolwich Dockyard

1 Ark Greenwich Free School	7 Leigh Stationers' Academy	13 St Ursula's Convent School
2 Eltham Hill	8 Plumstead Manor	14 The John Roan
3 Harris Academy Greenwich	9 Royal Greenwich Trust School	15 Thomas Tallis
4 Harris Free School for Boys (TBC)	10 St Mary Magdalene CE School	16 Woolwich Polytechnic School for Boys
5 Leigh Academy Blackheath	11 St Paul's Academy	17 Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls
6 Leigh Academy Halley	12 St Thomas More Catholic Comprehensive School	

Figure 12 Map of secondary schools in the borough

10.25 The latest projections indicate a reducing demand for Year 7 places over the forecasting period. However, school place planning projections are updated on a yearly basis to reflect any predicted changes in population trends and housing growth.

10.26 These plans do not reflect the need for new secondary schools as a result of new developments in the longer term. For instance, as set out in the draft Thamesmead Opportunity Area Framework, there is a need for a new 6FE secondary school to support the level of proposed growth as opportunities to expand schools in this area are limited and two of the three secondary schools in the area already operate at 8FE. An all through school will also be required in Charlton Riverside.

Post 16 places

10.27 The demand for school sixth form places has risen in recent years but is now anticipated to gradually reduce over the short to medium term forecast period. The overall capacity of school sixth forms has also increased over recent years but is expected to remain at broadly current levels over the period ensuring sufficiency of places.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

Existing Provision

10.28 There are now five special schools in Royal Greenwich designed to meet the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) as set out in the Table below.

Table 11 SEND schools in Royal Greenwich

Greenwich Special Schools	Capacity	Age range
Waterside Primary	48	5 – 10
Willow Dene Primary Phase	216	3 – 10
Willow Dene Secondary Phase	88	11 – 18
Charlton Park Academy	202	11 – 18
Kings Oak Secondary	40	11 – 15
Rowan Wood All-Through	See text below	

10.29 The number of children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan is forecast to increase significantly over the next five years. There is, therefore, a need to increase a range of specialist provision, specifically for autism with complex learning needs, moderate learning difficulties (MLD) and social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH) so that children and young people can be educated locally. In response to increasing needs, Rowan Wood All-Through School will provide 240 specialist places, with secondary and post-16 phases opening from 2025/26 at Hargood Road and the primary phase planned for delivery on the former Gallions Mount Primary School site by 2029. In the meantime, the primary phase will begin taking pupils from September 2026 utilising temporary accommodation pending completion of the new permanent building.

10.30 Several mainstream schools and Newhaven School (Pupil Referral Unit) have designated Local Authority Resourced Provision (LARP) commissioned to support pupils with special educational needs. As of September 2025 there were eleven primary LARPs providing 163 places. There were also seven secondary LARPs (in six schools), providing 133 places. Further, Kings Park campus (managed by Newhaven School) provides 90 places for students aged 11-19 with autism and mental health needs.

Future Provision

10.31 Discussions are on-going regarding establishing additional LARPs at both primary and secondary phases. Further, a new Transition Learning Centre at Bexley Road will provide specialist provision for young people aged 19–25.

11 Emergency Services

11.1 Emergency services in Royal Greenwich include the Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade and the London Ambulance Service.

Existing Provision

11.2 The existing provision of stations across the borough is set out below:

Table 12 Emergency services stations in Royal Greenwich

Emergency Service	Area of Borough	Address
Police	Plumstead	200 Plumstead High St, London SE18 1JY
Fire	East Greenwich	325 Woolwich Road, SE7 7RF
Fire	Eltham	266 Eltham High St, SE9 1BA
Fire	Greenwich	4 Blisset Street, SE10 8UP
Fire	Lee Green	9 Eltham Road, SE12 8ES
Fire	Plumstead	1 Lakedale Road Plumstead, SE12 8ES
Ambulance	Woolwich	Ferry Approach, London SE18 6DP
Ambulance	Mottingham	205 Eltham Road, London SE9 5LN
Ambulance	Greenwich	392 Shooters Hill Road, London SE18 4LP

Sources: [Police Stations](#); [Fire stations](#); [Ambulance stations](#)

Metropolitan Police Service

11.3 The Metropolitan Police Service is primarily funded by the Home Office and the Mayor of London's Office for Policing and Crime (MPOAC). The Home Office provides a majority share of funding, with the Mayor supplementing this through a combination of contributions from City Hall, council tax and business rates. However, there is a significant funding shortfall and additional sources of funding are required to accommodate the requirements arising from new development.

11.4 Plumstead is the sole Police Station within the Royal Borough and is open from 10am to 10pm on weekdays and 9am to 7pm at weekends. As a result of cuts to Government police funding, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has had to lose more than 100 police stations and 2,800 police staff in recent years. In Greenwich, this has led to the loss of 4 police stations; Woolwich, Thamesmead, Greenwich and Eltham. There are however, 23 wards within Greenwich Borough and each one has a dedicated Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT).

London Fire Brigade

- 11.5 The London Fire Brigade (LFB) plans fire cover on a London-wide basis therefore the Borough doesn't solely rely on the stations located within the borough. As set out in table 12 above there are 5 fire stations in the Royal Borough of Greenwich.
- 11.6 Borough boundaries are not used for emergency response purposes. The level of service need is determined by their attendance standard (speed of response), which is impacted on by fire station locations and demand for services. LFB aims to get a first fire engine to an emergency incident within the pan London average of six minutes, with a second in eight minutes. Performance in Greenwich for 2022 was well within those targets with the first fire engine arriving within 5m 16s and if required, a second fire engine arriving within 6m and 24s³⁹.

London Ambulance Service

- 11.7 The London Ambulance Service NHS Trust provides urgent and emergency healthcare service for over eight and a half million people living in London, as well as visitors and commuters. There are 3 Ambulance Stations in the borough as detailed in table 12 above.
- 11.8 The London Ambulance Service is the busiest ambulance service in the country and one of the busiest in the world; with demand for services increasing year on year. In January 2025, ambulance services answered 935,950 calls to 999, or 30,192 per day, an increase of 5% compared to November 2024 and 4% more than December 2023. The average ambulance response time for category 2 calls was 47 minutes and 26 seconds. This has increased from 42 minutes and 26 seconds in November 2024 and 45 minutes and 57 seconds in December 2023.

Future Provision

Metropolitan Police Service

- 11.9 As with many public services, the MPS are under increasing pressure to reduce costs and improve efficiency. The [Metropolitan Police and Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime Estate Strategy 2025–2035](#) outlines a comprehensive plan to manage and develop the Met's estate in London, focusing on enhancing policing services and ensuring the estate is fit for purpose. The strategy aims to modernise facilities, improve training environments, and create new training environments that support high standards. It also plans to respond to emerging technologies and ensure the estate evolves to meet the demands of modern policing. The strategy is a response to the Met's financial constraints and the need to keep buildings compliant and secure.
- 11.10 The Metropolitan Police and Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime Estate Strategy 2025–2035 continues to place neighbourhood policing at the heart of communities and ensure most neighbourhood teams are within a 20-minute walk of their wards.

³⁹ ³⁹ [LFB Incident Response Times](#)

11.11 It should be noted that the MPS has developed a model for defining a proportionate level of contribution towards the policing resource generated by new development and will likely seek contributions using this model for development proposals that are referable to the Mayor of London. Areas for use of contributions that have been identified include staff set up costs, vehicles, mobile IT, Police National Database (e.g. licences, IT and telephony) and the provision of police accommodation.

11.12 Where developments are of a sufficient scale, Section 106 agreements will be used to secure appropriate improvements in Neighbourhood Police Office provision. Wards which have a requirement for a new Neighbourhood Police Office are listed below:

- Charlton Hornfair

11.13 Applicants proposing referable schemes are encouraged to engage with the Metropolitan Police Service at the pre-application stage to help understand the amount likely to be sought through this modelling and any specific policing infrastructure that might be sought within the scheme itself.

London Fire Brigade

11.14 [The LFB Estate Strategy 2024–2029](#) sets out a clear priority to manage and invest in the Fire Brigade's estate so that it remains safe, resilient, inclusive, sustainable and fit for purpose. The strategy emphasises maintaining and modernising an ageing estate of fire stations and operational buildings, focusing on condition-led investment, improved safety and security, and ensuring buildings support effective response times, training, prevention work and community engagement. The strategy also sets out that the LFB will continue to collaborate with the Metropolitan Police Service and London Ambulance Service to reduce their estates and explore opportunities for co-locating to improve efficiency and cut costs.

11.15 There is a need to adapt existing assets rather than expand the estate, alongside improving environmental performance through more sustainable and energy-efficient buildings and aligning with Net Zero objectives. The strategy also highlights making better use of stations as community assets and ensuring facilities meet modern standards for workforce wellbeing and inclusion. Within this framework, the Brigade completed in 2024 a major capital project to extend and refurbish Grade II listed Plumstead Fire Station, improving building condition and functionality whilst delivering new community facilities and excellent sustainability industry standards to ensure the station continues to meet operational and community needs into the 21st century.

11.16 [The LFB Delivery Plan 2023–2029](#) supports this approach by setting out how estate investment, alongside workforce, technology and partnerships, will be used as a key enabler to deliver the Community Risk Management Plan and respond effectively to London's changing risk profile. Within the LFB Carbon Net Zero strategy plan LFB are presently within the project timeline to de-carbonise Greenwich fire station. This will remove all of the fossil fuelled equipment and leave the fire station completely electric. Part of this project includes the provision of a new electrical sub-station and heat-pumps for heating.

London Ambulance Service

11.17 The demand for ambulance services has been increasing year on year, but like many other public services the London Ambulance Service is under pressure to make savings without

compromising the level of service. It has published a [2023-2028 strategy](#) which focuses on modernising and optimising its ambulance stations to ensure they are in the right locations, fit for a growing and increasingly skilled workforce, and capable of supporting new models of care, electric fleets and digital systems. The Trust has committed to delivering at least one rebuilt ambulance station per year, expanding capacity at existing sites, and aligning estate investment with staff wellbeing, sustainability and operational performance across London.

11.18 In all cases, Royal Borough of Greenwich will continue to work proactively with MPS, LFB and LAS to support the delivery of emergency services.

12 Health and Social Care

The health needs of Royal Greenwich

- 12.1 Royal Greenwich is a richly diverse borough with a range of different communities and health needs. Its population is relatively young and with significant levels of housing growth planned and the number of families and young people expected to continue to rise. The number of older people is also rising meaning that health and care services need to respond to greater numbers of people with more complex health needs. There are still high levels of deprivation amongst significant proportions of the population and significant inequality impacting on the health and wellbeing of the population and their need for health and care services. For example, as highlighted in the [24/25 Annual Public Health Report in Greenwich](#), the gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived residents is 6.9 years for men and 6.5 years for women. Men in Greenwich spend on average around 18.5 years in poor health. For women, it's even longer – an average of 23 years.
- 12.2 As set out in [Royal Greenwich's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\)](#), a range of social, economic, environmental and commercial determinants significantly influence the health and wellbeing of the local population. These include poverty, housing quality, employment and working conditions, access to green space, and the wider environment. Such wider determinants are closely linked to behavioural risk factors including smoking, harmful alcohol use, physical inactivity and poor diet, which contribute to preventable long-term conditions such as cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness, cancer and poor mental health.
- 12.3 The [Royal Greenwich Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023–2028](#), responds directly to this evidence by adopting a life-course and addressing inequalities-focused approach. It sets out shared priorities and actions under the themes of Start Well, Be Well, Feel Well, Stay Well and Age Well, with a strong emphasis on addressing unfair and avoidable health inequalities, and creating the social and environmental conditions that enable residents to live fairer, healthier lives. These priorities provide the strategic framework for coordinated action across the Council, the NHS, and the voluntary, community and faith sectors to improve outcomes for Greenwich residents.
- 12.4 The Royal Borough of Greenwich also commissions prevention services, including a social prescribing service called 'Live Well Greenwich' to tackle some of these issues and supports people to look after themselves physically, socially and mentally. This includes a variety of support relating to health, work, finances, community activities and home life. Preventing ill health wherever possible will help to reduce pressure on the NHS. Many of the other types of infrastructure discussed in the IDP have a role to play in enabling people to live fairer, healthier lives, for example, having access to green spaces, cultural activities, sports and recreation facilities supports peoples physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. As required by the Care Act, 2014, the online [Greenwich Community Directory](#) offers information and advice about care and support services available in the area, helping support residents navigate and access support across the life course that's right for them.
- 12.5 Whilst the IDP focuses largely on the treatment of ill health and the infrastructure requirements related to this, floorspace is also required to run social connection and prevention services. As set out in figure 16 and explained in the rest of this chapter, providing community health hubs which combine primary care with community and social care in one place creates a more useable and accessible health and wellbeing service that integrates

prevention into the wider health model. This helps to relieve pressure on other parts of the health care system such as GP practices and hospitals.

The health and social care system

- 12.6 There are 3 main elements of health and social care as set out in figure 13; Acute care, community-based care and primary care.
- 12.7 The Southeast London Integrated Care Board (ICB) is responsible for commissioning the majority of health care services to meet the needs of the people living in Greenwich. NHS England continues to commission dental, pharmacy and optometry services and specialist services, and oversees the ICB. Demand for dentists, pharmacists and optometry services is often met by private providers.

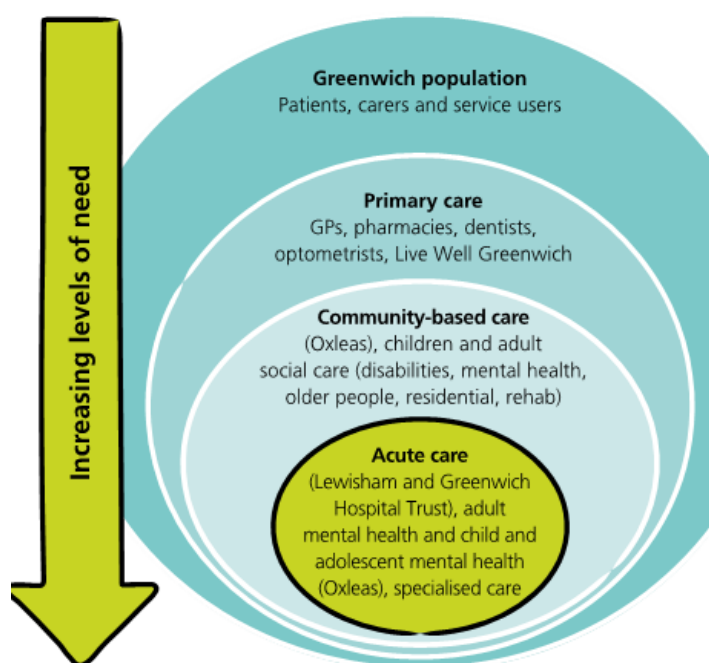


Figure 13 Model of health and social care (Greenwich Commissioning Strategy 2018 – 2022)

- 12.8 The [Integrated Care Strategic Priorities for 2023-28](#), published by the South East London Integrated Care System, sets out the plans for commissioning health and social care services for the next five years. The focus is on improving population health and reducing inequalities by shifting toward prevention, earlier intervention, and more joined-up, accessible care across the system.
- 12.9 Royal Borough of Greenwich has a strategic objective for a Healthier Greenwich. The local authority is responsible for a range of children's health and wellbeing services (including safeguarding and child protection, alcohol and drug treatment, school nurses and health visitors) which are delivered mainly through Children's Centres and schools, and also youth

and community venues in partnership with NHS and voluntary and community sector organisations.

12.10 Royal Borough of Greenwich is also responsible for Public Health services including stop smoking services, food and physical activity programmes, NHS Health Checks, alcohol and drugs treatment and sexual health services. Many of these services are delivered in partnership with GPs. Adult social care services including mental health, learning disabilities, physical disabilities, sheltered housing and residential and domiciliary care services are also the responsibility of Royal Greenwich. They are run in partnership with the ICB, Oxleas and Lewisham and Greenwich Trust to jointly plan and join up services for adults and older people.

How the NHS is changing

12.11 Health services in Southeast London are now planned and delivered through the NHS Southeast London Integrated Care Board, which brings together NHS organisations, local authorities and partners to improve population health, reduce inequalities and ensure the efficient use of resources. This reflects a shift towards system-wide working, with greater emphasis on collaboration across organisational boundaries and delivery at a local (place-based) level.

12.12 National policy continues to drive a shift towards prevention, earlier intervention, and more care delivered closer to home, building on the direction set out in the NHS Long Term Plan and reinforced through the new Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan for England. This includes reducing reliance on acute hospitals, improving access to primary and community services, and making greater use of digital approaches to care. Though the focus on moving activity into the community we know that the population of Greenwich is at the same time increasing hence there may continue to be need for increased acute capacity to meet increased demand.

12.13 In response to the national ambition to develop a Neighbourhood Health Service, the ICB is working in a more integrated way at neighbourhood level through the development of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs). These teams bring together professionals from across primary care, community services, mental health, social care and the voluntary sector to deliver more coordinated, proactive and preventative care. INTs aim to balance consistent access and quality with the flexibility required to respond to local population needs and address long-standing inequalities. A draft map of the proposed neighbourhoods is provided below in figure 14.

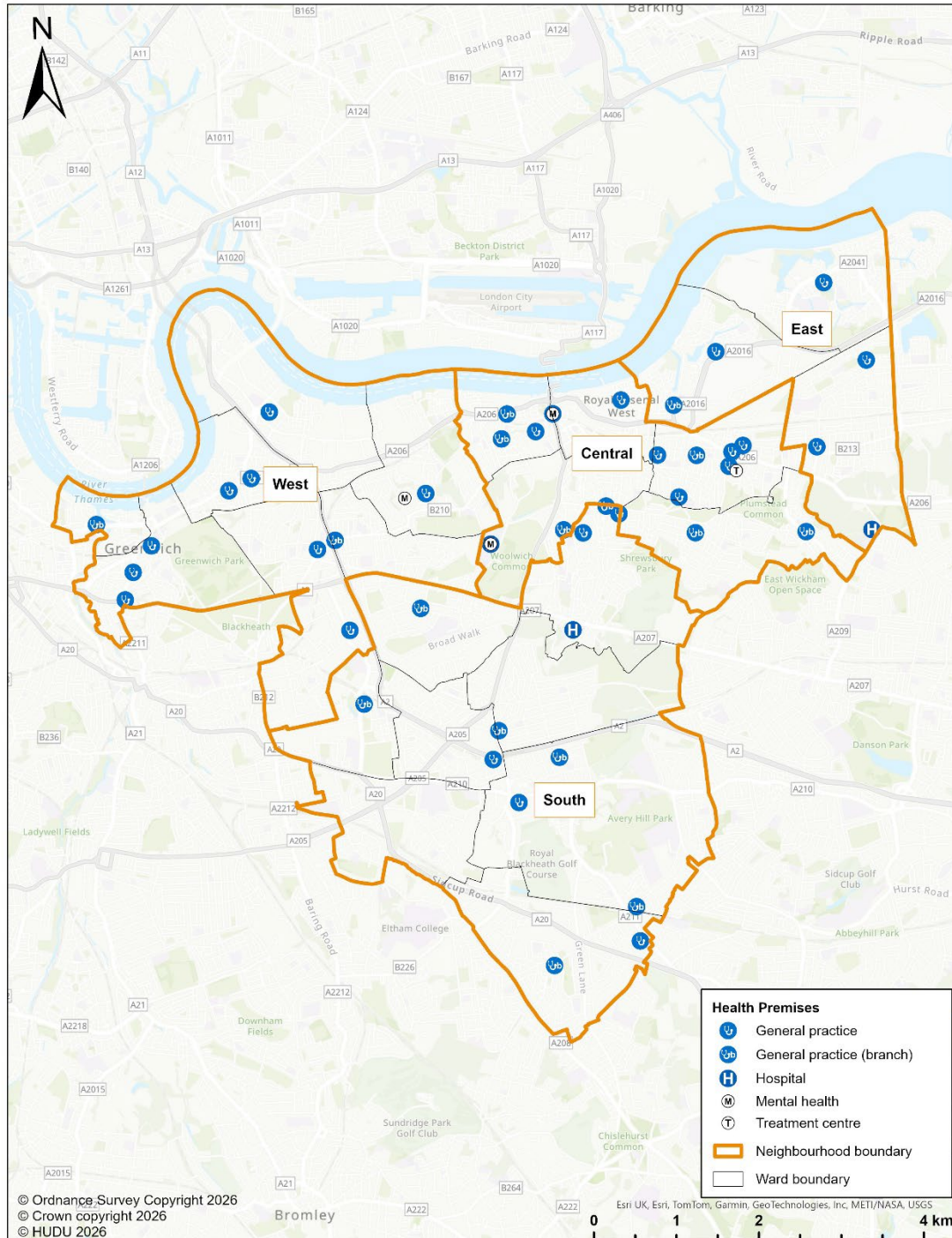


Figure 14 Map of proposed Greenwich neighbourhoods

12.14 An increasing proportion of healthcare activity is expected to be delivered outside of hospital settings, particularly within primary and community care. Services will increasingly be

provided through general practice, Primary Care Networks (PCNs), GP Federations and community providers, supported by a growing multidisciplinary workforce. The expansion of roles through schemes such as the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) is enabling a broader range of services to be delivered in community settings.

- 12.15 These changes will require a corresponding transformation in the health estate. There is a growing need for flexible, modern facilities that can accommodate multidisciplinary teams and support a wider range of services in community settings, including the development of neighbourhood hubs. Future infrastructure requirements will be influenced not only by population growth but also by demographic change, deprivation and wider determinants of health, requiring a coordinated and forward-looking approach to planning.

Existing provision

- 12.16 There are currently 28 General Practices across Royal Greenwich and 13 branch surgeries. There are also four GP Access Hubs, which offer appointments outside of normal practice hours. There is one major hospital (Queen Elizabeth) and 3 community hospitals; Eltham, Goldie Leigh and Memorial Hospital, all of which offer intermediate services such as community mental health, mobility and falls services and rehabilitation. The distribution of GP surgeries and branch surgeries can be seen in figure 15 below. A larger proportion of surgeries and health centres are concentrated in the Northeast of the borough which correlates to evidence that people living in more deprived areas are heavier users of GP services and demand is therefore higher.
- 12.17 As set out in the Royal Borough of Greenwich [Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment](#), there are 55 community pharmacies and one distance selling pharmacy located within the Royal Borough of Greenwich. There is also a further 65 located within a mile of Greenwich's borders. The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment concludes that the pharmacy provision for NHS services is sufficient for supplying a necessary service in the borough with capacity to accommodate future population growth.

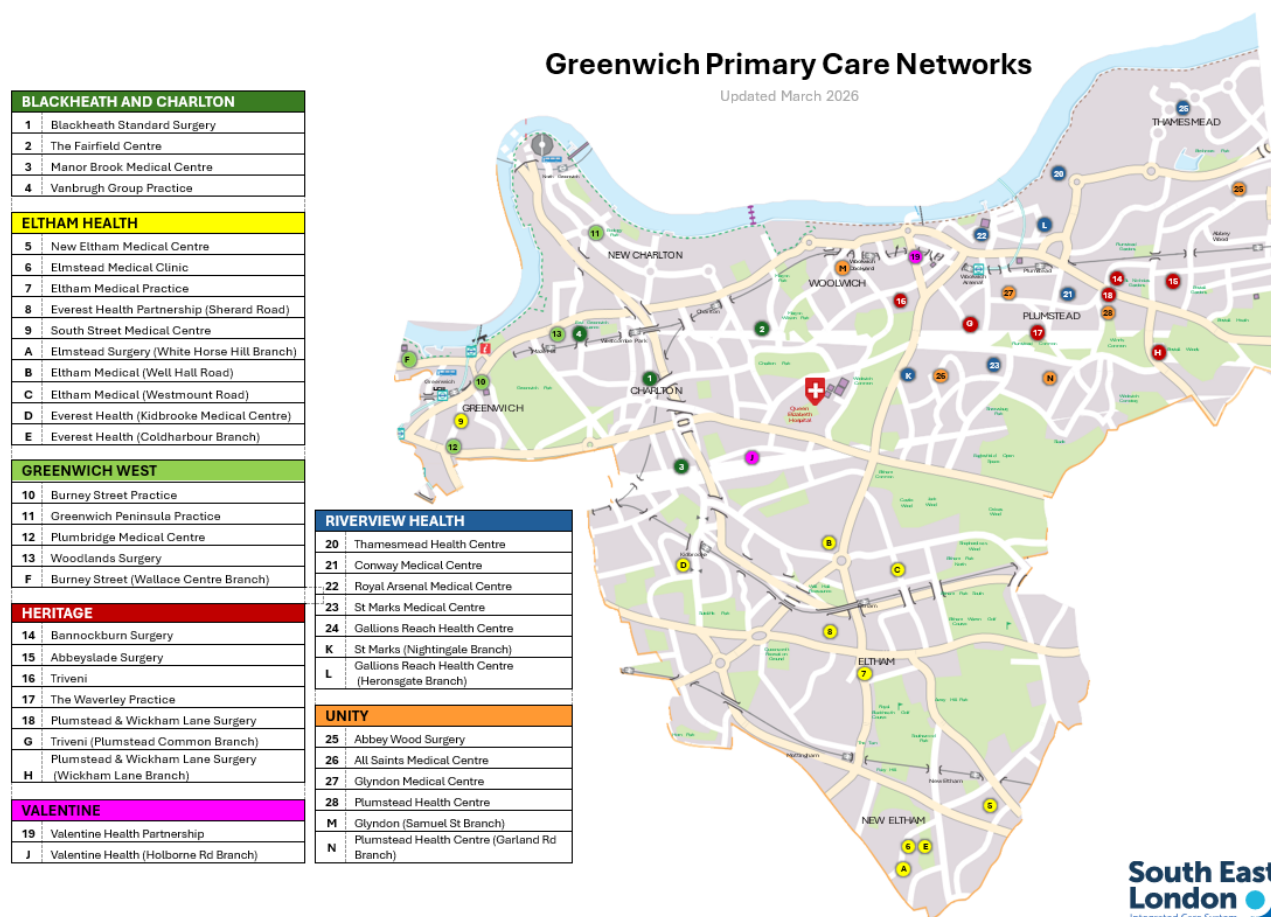


Figure 15 Map of Greenwich Primary Care Networks (PCNs) (Source: ICB)

Pressures on the health care system

- 12.18 Like many parts of the country, there is a lack of qualified primary care workforce, including a shortage of qualified GPs in the borough. Currently there are 220 GPs spread across Royal Greenwich, with 49 (22%) of these being over the age of 55. In addition, many GPs are working part time.
- 12.19 NHS England states that on average a GP is expected to serve a list size of 1800 patients. Currently, of the 28 surgeries in the borough, 14 of these surgeries have list sizes that considerably exceed the 1800 average, and 14 surgeries have GP's operating within this recommended average. Many GPs are also self-employed and own the premises in which they work; some of which are houses that have been converted to surgeries. This is no longer seen as an efficient use of space as these buildings were not built for health care purposes and offer a limited number of health services.
- 12.20 Funding for health infrastructure is increasingly constrained with NHS England's Estate & Technology Transformation Fund (ETTF) having finished, while various but modest NHS improvement grants (LIG, UMF), and capital investment by partners are delivering current projects alongside, One Public Estate funding. Further funding will be required to enable progress on estate development and expansion of health infrastructure in Greenwich. This includes contributions from S106 agreements and CIL monies to mitigate the impact of

individual development and the wider cumulative impact in enabling the expansion of health infrastructure to meet community demand.

12.21 [The Southeast London ICS Estates and Infrastructure Strategy](#) provides the overarching framework for estate planning across the boroughs, ensuring that Greenwich's health estate priorities align with system-wide goals. This strategy underpins the development of integrated, sustainable, and fit-for-purpose estate solutions that support the long-term transformation of care delivery. Greenwich's estate plans must align with these principles to secure investment and funding.

Future Provision

Acute Care

12.22 To address the pressure acute health services are under, the NHS Long Term Plan proposes to move some intermediate health care services out of hospitals and into primary care facilities. The types of services this may include are outpatient appointments, dialysis, cancer care, cervical cancer screening and blood tests which could be provided for in primary care facilities if the necessary medical equipment is kept on site. There are benefits to providing these services in the community; they are convenient, more accessible and people are more likely to attend. Lewisham and Greenwich Trust has ambitions to redevelop and redesign Queen Elizabeth Hospital to include:

- Redesigning the urgent care centre, emergency department and inpatient wards to improve flow into the hospital
- Improve the Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) ambulatory care centre
- Increase capacity for day case procedures to be done outside of ward areas
- Reconfigure outpatient areas to maximise space for face to face and virtual appointments
- Improve gynae and surgical urgent care facilities
- Adopt Stadium Road
- Investment in site infrastructure, staff accommodation, support for key workers, wellbeing and outside space & education centre space

The Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust will also play an active role in the operation of Integrated Neighbourhood Teams and will be looking to provide services within future Neighbourhood Hubs.

Primary and Community Care

12.23 The [Integrated Care Strategic Priorities for 2023-28](#), sets out how the ICB will commission health care services for the next five years: it focuses on providing integrated community-based health services. For primary care services such as GPs this means working at a larger scale and offering more services in one location to improve resilience, access to services and reduce pressure on hospitals.

12.24 As a result, General Practices will work together and with other mental health and social care professionals such as counsellors, pharmacists, physiotherapists, practice nurses and social prescribers in their local areas under Primary Care Networks (PCNs)⁴⁰. There are seven

⁴⁰ [NHS Long Term Plan 2019](#)

PCN's in Greenwich which can be seen in figure 15 above, some of which have overlapping boundaries.

- 12.25 Bringing together a range of specialists to deal with managing long term conditions and minor ailments will improve the quality of care, reduce waiting times and free up GPs to diagnose and treat more complicated conditions. Furthermore, decentralising some services currently provided in hospitals such as blood tests and dialysis which could be provided for through community health services will relieve pressure on hospitals allowing them to concentrate on major incidents.
- 12.26 The ICB is committed to making more efficient use of the existing estate and in supporting PCNs and their practices to use existing larger, purpose-built health facilities where possible. However, it is also recognised that in the medium-long term, the scale of development potential in the borough is likely to require the development of new health facilities in areas of significant development to meet the growing population in these areas.
- 12.27 The Healthy Urban Development Unit model was used to analyse Royal Borough of Greenwich population projections (2026) and provide an indication as to the type of health care needed to accommodate this level of population growth. The HUDU Planning Contributions Model is a comprehensive tool to assess the health service requirements and cost impacts of new residential developments. The model calculates:
- The net increase in population resulting from new development
 - Health activity levels
 - Primary healthcare needs (GPs and community health facilities)
 - Hospital beds and floor space requirements
 - Other healthcare floorspace
 - Capital and revenue cost impacts
- 12.28 The methodology is long established and widely used and encouraged by the London Plan. Based on the model, the table below sets out what health care facilities are likely to be needed across the borough to meet the health care needs of residents. These figures would be subject to change if the level of housing growth in these locations increased.
- 12.29 Given the level of growth anticipated in the Royal Borough of Greenwich's population projections, the HUDU model estimates that capital investment up to £220,643,863 will be required to mitigate the impacts of population growth on all health care types.

Table 13 Projected future healthcare facility requirements

Neighbourhood	Level of Growth to 2041 (approx.)	Future Health Care Provision
West	High 28,799 new homes	Substantial growth, sustained over 15 years, will warrant significant investment in primary health care estate. A new facility will be required on Greenwich Peninsula and in Charlton once the precinct develops and matures (approximately 1000sqm of floorspace with 10-12 primary care rooms and supporting health uses in both Greenwich

		Peninsula and Charlton). Reconfiguration works aimed at increasing clinical capacity are to be required in other parts of the neighbourhood.
Central	High 12,580 new homes	Sustained growth in Woolwich and surrounds. Reconfiguration and expansion of existing estate will be prioritised. New facilities will be explored given changing clinical demands.
East	Moderate 6,004 new homes	Growth to accelerate, driven by redevelopment of Thamesmead which has been identified as a potential new town. New or reconfigured/expanded primary estate to be provided alongside more intense development within the neighbourhood.
South	Low 3,736 homes	Lower growth than the remainder of the borough. Investment in primary care estate still required given changing demographics which will place greater strain on health services (e.g. ageing population).

Requirements of new health facilities/community hubs

12.30 In line with the Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan for England, the Southeast London Integrated Care Board Estates Strategy and the neighbourhood health framework, new facilities will need to:

- bring together GP services with a mix of community, local authority and civil society sector services (such as those provided in figure 16)
- allow staff to join up care, which is better for people and communities
- make care easier to access and easier to deliver, while also reducing pressure on other parts of the system
- act as a catalyst for health and well-being rather than just somewhere to treat health problems

12.31 When new health care facilities are provided to address the pressures caused by new developments, early consultation with the ICB should be undertaken to determine the specification, delivery and management of future facilities.

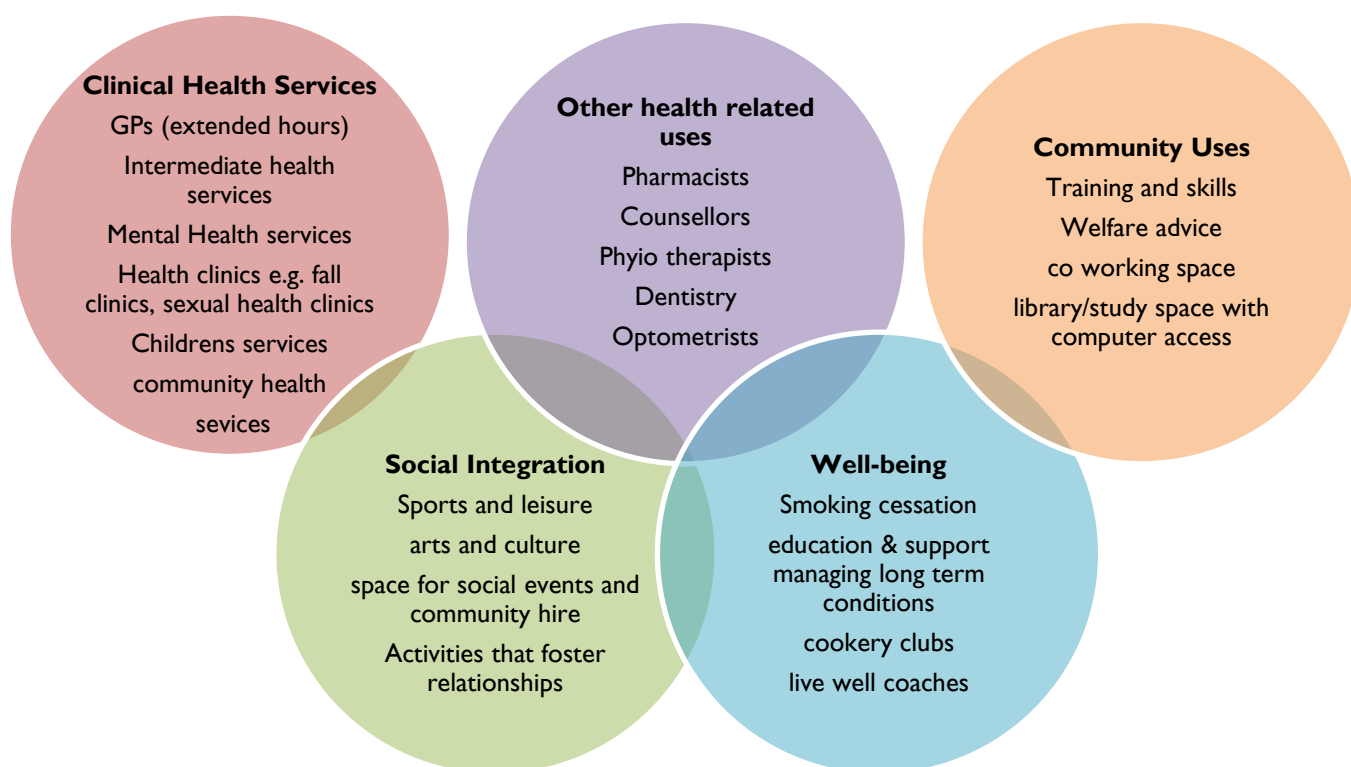


Figure 16 Types of services that could be included in health and wellbeing hubs

Design guidance and technology

12.32 There are specific design requirements and guidance for health care facilities including, but not limited to, space standards and these should be adhered to⁴¹. It is important to provide floorspace that is flexible and can be adapted for a variety of uses now and in the future. For example, larger spaces should be able to accommodate health clinics and be used for community events and classes. The space should be ‘future proofed’ by making provision for pods for e-consultations and bookable space that the practice can expand into as the population grows. However, there should also be dedicated floorspace for medical use.

12.33 A new facility should be easily accessible by public transport, easily visible from a public highway, have accessible parking for those with mobility issues and easy access for emergency vehicles. Surfaces in and around health hubs including in surrounding roads should be flat. Natural light must also be provided including to consultation rooms, bookable space and multi-use spaces and glass foyers and atriums will be encouraged. It should include storage for IT and other equipment, be ready for 5G and have publicly accessible free wifi. The reception for all services should be integrated to create a smooth-running service and where services are located above ground floor a fire lift must be provided.

12.34 The Kidbrooke Village Medical Centre is a good example in Greenwich of partnership working delivering a new integrated health and community facility being delivered alongside new development. The facility provides a range of services available including GP's,

⁴¹ [Guidance for facilities for providing primary and community care services](#)

phlebotomy, mental health services, clinics, dentistry, pharmacy, audiology, osteopathy, social prescribing and healthy living advice.

Mental Health

- 12.35 Adult mental health services are provided in community and hospital settings within Greenwich. Improving mental health is one of the Health and Wellbeing Board's priorities with Greenwich residents experiencing a higher rate of mental illness than the London average and significantly above the England average. To meet the increased demand for mental health services and to provide services in appropriate accommodation across the borough, new opportunities are required to offer flexible services locally within communities via sessional space and for the reconfiguration and improvement of existing sites to increase capacity.

Children and Young People's Community Health Services

- 12.36 Children and Young People's services are provided in a range of community settings, including health centres, GPs, schools, children's centres. Highpoint House in Shooters Hill is an integrated hub for children and young people and provides both physical and mental health services in a child-focussed venue. The demand for additional children's services in Greenwich will require more flexible clinical accommodation to be made available throughout the borough. There is also a need for some children's services to move to a more 'neighbourhood approach' creating better access to services that are closer to families.

13 Sports and Leisure Facilities

- 13.1 Access to quality sport and leisure facilities is essential to improving the health and wellbeing of residents and it is important to have the right type of space in the right place. The quality of sports provision in the borough has an impact on the participation opportunities that are available to local people and in turn on participation rates at a local authority level. With a lower than average life expectancy⁴² in Greenwich compared to England and Greenwich being more deprived than 75% of local authority districts in England⁴³, it is imperative that encouraging participation in sport is also key to improving the health and well-being of residents.
- 13.2 The Council is reviewing its approach to physical activity and sport and is currently developing an updated Physical Activity and Sports Strategy. This work is shaping its future direction, with emerging priorities focused on supporting active individuals, fostering active communities, and creating an active environment. These themes reflect both local needs and national policy objectives relating to health, wellbeing, and place-based activity.
- 13.3 The previous Greenwich Get Active Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2019–2023 and its Action Plan set out a clear framework to increase participation, improve health and wellbeing, develop skills, support economic growth, and strengthen community and sports infrastructure. Core objectives included promoting inclusive and healthy communities, encouraging active lifestyles as a preventative health measure, supporting inclusive growth and social mobility, building workforce capacity, and maximising access to sports, leisure, and open spaces. These principles continue to underpin the Council's approach as the updated strategy is developed.
- 13.4 The Royal Borough of Greenwich is expected to see substantial housing and population growth over the next 10–15 years, placing increased pressure on sports and recreation infrastructure. To respond effectively, new facilities will be required alongside improvements to existing provision, ensuring an appropriate quantity and range to support active and healthy lifestyles.
- 13.5 Improving access to community assets and using local insight to shape provision will be critical to increasing participation in community life. Investment in new and enhanced facilities should align with Sport England's Strategic Outcomes Planning Model⁴⁴, ensuring provision meets local needs and strategic priorities while reflecting resource constraints.
- 13.6 The Sport England's Strategic Outcomes Planning Model follows the 4 stage approach:
- Stage 1 – Develop shared local strategic outcomes for Royal Borough of Greenwich
 - Stage 2 – Understand the community of Royal Borough of Greenwich
 - Stage 3 – Identify how the outcomes can be delivered sustainably
 - Stage 4 – Secure commitment to a strategic approach and delivery outcomes

⁴² [PowerPoint Presentation](#) – Greenwich Health Profile 2024

⁴³ [Overall \(IMD\) | Local Deprivation Explorer](#)

⁴⁴ [Strategic outcomes planning and leisure services delivery | Sport England](#)



Figure 17 Stage 4 approach, Sports England Strategic Outcomes Planning Model 2021

Existing Provision

- 13.7 Currently Greenwich has a wide range of indoor and outdoor facilities including swimming pools, leisure centres, and sports courts and pitches. In addition, a number of the Borough's schools have facilities which are available for the public to access, where there are formal community use agreements in place. The existing provision is listed in table 14 below.
- 13.8 The information summarised in each section below draws on the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) 2026-2036, the [Indoor Sports Facility Strategy 2022-2032](#) (ISFS), and the Local Football Facility Plan 2025 (LFFP), which together provide the current evidence base for outdoor and indoor sports provision in the borough and estimated future needs. These strategies were developed in partnership with Sport England, the Football Association, England & Wales Cricket Board, England Rugby, England Hockey and other national governing bodies.

Table 14 Summary of existing sport and leisure provision

Facilities	Number in borough	Location
Athletics Track	1	Sutcliffe Park
Grass Pitches for football, cricket and rugby	187	Boroughwide
Artificial Grass Pitches	44	Boroughwide
Leisure Centre	8	Woolwich, Eltham, Cold harbour, Sutcliffe Park, Charlton Lido, Greenwich, Plumstead, Thamesmead
Bowls	7	Eltham, Blackheath & Greenwich, Woolwich & Plumstead, , Plumstead Common, Well Hall Pleasaunce, Bostal Heath, Kings,
School sports Halls*	25 sports halls across 16 sites	Ark Greenwich Free School, Blackheath High School, Colfe's Leisure Centre, Eltham Hill, Harris Academy, Plumstead Manor School, Shooters Hill, St Pauls Academy, St Mary Magdalene C of E, Stations Crown Woods, The Halley Academy, Thomas Tallis School, University of Greenwich Avery Hill, Woolwich Polytechnic, Woolwich Polytechnic School for Girls, Waterfront Leisure Centre
Swimming Pools	9	Woolwich, Eltham, Charlton Lido, Greenwich, Thamesmead, Shooters Hill Post 16 campus, David Lloyd Kidbrooke, Colfe's School, Royal Herbert Leisure Club
Tennis Courts (private)	53	Banning Street, Blackheath High School, Blackheath Wanderers sports club, Cator Estate, David Lloyd, Greenwich Park, Greenwich Uni, John Roan Playing Fields, Royal Artillery Barracks, Shooters Hill Lawn Tennis Club, Shooters Hill Post 16 Campus, St Mary Magdalene School, The Blackheath Lawn Tennis Club

Tennis courts (public)	30	Altash Gardens, Blackheath, Bostall gardens, Eltham Park South, Fairy Hill Park, Hornfair Park, Kidbrooke Green, Maryon Park, Plumstead Common, plus mini courts.
Squash Courts	10	Rectory Fields, Royal Artillery Barracks (not public) Woolwich Waves Leisure Centre, Blackheath Sports Club, Colfe's School, Horn Park
Skate Park	2	Charlton Park (combined skate and BMX track), Horn Park
BMX track	1	Horn Fair Park

Sports Pitches

- 13.9 Grass pitches remain the dominant form of sports pitch provision in the borough, supporting football, cricket, rugby and hockey. This network plays a vital role in meeting community and club demand but is under increasing pressure, with many sites operating at or beyond capacity during peak periods. The majority of provision is located in the central and southern parts of the borough, resulting in uneven access to pitches across different areas.
- 13.10 Overall, existing provision is insufficient to meet current demand. Football faces the greatest pressure, reflecting a shortage of grass pitches (excluding mini-soccer), limited availability of full-size 11v11 3G Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs), uneven geographical distribution and variable pitch quality. Cricket pitches are generally operating at or close to capacity, with some overplayed and constrained by maintenance and quality issues. Rugby provision broadly meets current demand, but reliance on a limited number of heavily used sites and uneven pitch quality reduces resilience.
- 13.11 In recent years there has been significant investment in artificial pitch infrastructure, including non-turf cricket wickets, new and resurfaced 3G football pitches, additional hockey pitches and a World Rugby Compliant 3G pitch. However, this has been accompanied by a net loss of grass pitches across football, cricket and rugby, reducing overall capacity and flexibility and limiting the ability of existing provision to respond to growth.
- 13.12 Playing pitch and sports facility provision in the borough is delivered through a mixed ownership model, including private clubs, education sites and public parks, with facility quality varying accordingly. Privately operated sites generally achieve higher standards of maintenance and resilience, while school and publicly managed facilities often face constraints relating to access, condition and investment. Evidence from the Playing Pitch Strategy 2026, the Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2022–2032 and the Local Football Facility Plan highlights the need for a more co-ordinated and targeted approach to infrastructure investment, particularly in addressing quality deficits, improving community access, and meeting demand for football facilities, including 3G artificial grass pitches, grass pitch improvements and small-sided MUGAs. These issues are exacerbated by population growth and underline the importance of aligning planning policy, site management and developer contributions to deliver high-quality,

accessible and multi-functional sports facilities that support health, wellbeing and place-making objectives.

Leisure Centres, Swimming pools and Sports Halls

13.13 GLL run 7 public leisure centres in Greenwich on behalf of the Royal Borough of Greenwich and have added new services and facilities over time to adapt to changing needs. The leisure centres are distributed across the borough although not located in the areas of highest population growth. There are also nine swimming pools in the borough, five of which are located within Greenwich Leisure Centres and four of which are privately run.

13.14 A number of the borough's leisure centres have been recently replaced or significantly upgraded, improving the quality, accessibility and resilience of indoor sports provision. A key example is Woolwich Waves, a flagship multi-use leisure facility that provides a wide range of swimming, fitness and indoor sports infrastructure. Facilities include an eight-lane 25-metre pool, training and leisure pools with fully accessible features, an extensive gym across two floors, studios for group exercise and spinning, a health suite, sports hall, squash courts and an indoor five-a-side 3G football pitch, alongside family-focused facilities such as a crèche, soft play areas and café. The 12,800 sqm centre was delivered by Morgan Sindall, informed by community engagement, and supported by £2.4 million of Sport England funding, demonstrating the role of strategic investment in delivering modern, inclusive leisure infrastructure aligned with Local Plan and IDP objectives.

13.15 There are 25 sports halls across 16 sites within the borough, which is slightly below the London average. Of these halls 80% are within a school which means access to them is restricted to term time and opening hours are limited.

13.16 In addition, the quantity of sports facilities supplied in Greenwich (especially sports halls and swimming pools) is considered to be average or below average in some instances according to the Sports England Facilities Planning Model used in the Sports Facility Strategy 2015.

Tennis, and Squash Courts

13.17 There are 83 tennis courts within Royal Greenwich. Most of which are privately owned (53) and some that are publicly owned (30). The majority of public courts are in good condition following investment in 2024 in partnership with the London Tennis Association (LTA) at 6 park tennis facilities. The rest of the courts are privately owned facilities that are available to hire. Most of the borough is located within a 1 mile catchment of a community accessible outdoor tennis court except the Peninsula, Thamesmead and Coldharbour/New Eltham, so the focus for future/new facilities should be in these areas. There are 10 squash courts in the borough.

Bowls

13.18 There are currently no indoor bowls facilities in Greenwich. However, several have been identified within a 30-minute drive of the borough.

Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs)

13.19 There are 16 outdoor MUGA's in the borough's parks and open spaces and 14 outdoor gyms in parks. There are also 11 MUGA's. soon to be 12 once Kidbrooke Road opens. Many of the MUGA's need resurfacing and remarking.

Future Provision

Sports pitches

- 13.20 Evidence from the Playing Pitch Strategy 2026–2036 and the Local Football Facility Plan confirms that current deficiencies will worsen over time without further intervention, driven by substantial population growth and changing participation patterns. The greatest projected growth is concentrated in Greenwich Peninsula, Greenwich West, Charlton Riverside, Woolwich and Thamesmead, where there is currently limited or no formal grass pitch provision.
- 13.21 Football will continue to experience the most acute future pressure. Based on population growth alone, additional pitch capacity will be required, particularly for junior and youth football. The strategies identify a substantial requirement for new full-size 11v11 3G AGPs, improved grass pitch quality to increase carrying capacity, and better access to school sites to maximise use of existing infrastructure. Without this intervention, unmet demand will increase, particularly in growth areas where accessibility is already constrained.
- 13.22 The Local Football Facility Plan identifies a clear borough-wide programme of future needs, including:
- new full-size and small-sided 3G football pitches,
 - widespread grass pitch improvements,
 - refurbishment and replacement of pavilions and changing accommodation, and
 - additional small-sided and informal football facilities.
- 13.23 The majority of new AGPs are required in the north and north-west of the borough, aligning with areas of highest population growth and existing provision gaps. A full list of future planned priority projects can be found in Appendix A.
- 13.24 Cricket provision will require improvement to quality and supporting infrastructure rather than significant additional grass pitches. Future needs focus on enhancing existing pitches, expanding non-turf practice facilities, and providing more opportunities for informal and training-based cricket, particularly to support participation among younger and BAME communities.
- 13.25 Rugby provision is expected to come under increasing pressure as participation grows. While total pitch numbers are broadly sufficient at present, future needs include reinstating under-used pitches, improving pitch quality to reduce overplay, and increasing access to artificial surfaces suitable for training to protect grass pitches.
- 13.26 Hockey provision is currently adequate, although there are potential plans to convert some pitches for alternative sports which could lead to a future shortage of pitches.
- 13.27 Any future requirement is expected to be modest and focused on safeguarding access to existing facilities rather than delivering new standalone pitches.
- 13.28 The table below summarises the findings in terms of future pitch requirements as set out in the Playing Pitch Strategy 2026:

Table 15 Showing the number of pitches required to support the population growth

Pitch type	Additional provision required
Grass pitches (total)	47
Football	43
Cricket	2
Rugby	2
3G AGPs (football)	12
Hockey AGPs	0

13.29 The Playing Pitch Strategy concludes that meeting both existing shortfalls and future demand generated by population growth to 2036 will require a substantial increase in playing pitch capacity across the borough, equivalent to 47 additional grass pitches (predominantly for football, alongside small numbers for cricket and rugby) and 12 full-size 11v11 3G Artificial Grass Pitches for football. Given significant land constraints, particularly in the north of the borough, it is recognised that this level of need cannot be met solely through new grass pitch provision. Accommodating future demand will therefore require a coordinated approach combining protection of existing pitches, quality enhancement to increase carrying capacity, selective new provision in growth areas, and maximising community access to education sites. In locations such as Greenwich Peninsula, where traditional pitch provision is constrained, opportunities for innovative solutions, including the delivery of AGPs or complementary facilities such as MUGAs—should be explored as part of a wider spatial strategy.

Tennis and Squash Courts

13.30 Whilst the Sports Facilities Strategy does not identify a need for any new facilities based on existing demand, it illustrates those existing facilities, particularly park tennis courts, are well used and need to be maintained and upgraded. In addition, the Lawn Tennis Association has identified Greenwich as one of 8 London boroughs with the potential demand for an indoor tennis facility; Royal Greenwich will continue to explore this potential with the LTA.

Bowls

13.31 Both the Indoor Sports Facility Strategy and the Playing Pitch Strategy confirm that there are no dedicated bowls facilities in Greenwich, and participation in bowls is declining in line with national trends. As a result, there is no identified need for new bowls provision, with the focus instead on maintaining access to out-of-borough indoor facilities and making flexible use of existing indoor spaces, such as short-mat bowls, should local demand emerge.

Leisure Centres, Swimming pools and Sports Halls

13.32 The Sports Facility Strategy highlights that 50% of unmet demand is not met due to a lack of sports halls in the borough. The highest levels of unmet demand are in the north of the

borough, particularly Greenwich Peninsula, Thamesmead and Abbey Wood, due to high increases in population and density.

- 13.33 The Plumstead sports centre opened in February 2020 and includes one badminton court sized sports hall.
- 13.34 There is an even distribution of swimming pools across the borough and the overall provision of pool space in Royal Greenwich is similar to the London average, although there is a deficiency in the West of the borough.
- 13.35 Sport England sets a comfort factor for pools being comfortably full at 70% of the total pool capacity. Beyond this 70% level, the pool itself becomes too full and detracts from the ability to swim. All swimming pools in Greenwich with the exception of David Lloyd Club (Kidbrooke) are already operating at a level of capacity that is 'uncomfortably busy'. The GLA's [Strategic Assessment of Need for Swimming Pool Provision in London 2017 - 2041](#) which is also based on the Sports England Facility Planning Model illustrates that Greenwich is already at 89% of its capacity and will be at 97% by 2041.
- 13.36 The Sports England Facility Planning Model was used to calculate unmet demand for access to water space in the Sports Facility Strategy 2015; it demonstrates a need for 193 square metres of additional water space which is projected to grow to 333 square metres by 2028. This projected level of unmet demand by 2028 will be the equivalent of a new 25m/6 lane swimming pool; this takes into consideration the replacement of the Arches Leisure Centre at the Greenwich Centre and the planned replacement of the Waterfront Leisure Centre in Woolwich Town Centre.
- 13.37 The Greenwich Centre was a vital replacement for the Arches to provide high quality swimming provision, however there is need for additional pool space in the Northwest of the borough on Greenwich Peninsula. This has been secured as part of the planning permission in the 2015 master plan for Greenwich Peninsula and it will be essential this is delivered to meet this need. There are also a number of private pools in the borough within developments which are accessible to residents; whilst this does not meet the need for a public swimming pool it reduces some pressure on existing public pools.
- 13.38 Consideration also needs to be given to the future provision of leisure facilities in Thamesmead. Thamesmere Leisure Centre is the oldest leisure facility in the borough, and given its age, layout and overall condition, replacement rather than refurbishment is treated as the baseline requirement to accommodate the scale of growth set out in the Thamesmead and Abbey Wood Opportunity Area Planning Framework and the proposed DLR extension. The replacement should be designed as a multi-functional community hub integrating leisure, library, cultural and community provision. The current leisure centre and the adjoining parcel of land, which has historically been used for community uses, are identified in the Site Allocations Local Plan and provide the opportunity to deliver a properly scaled facility.
- 13.39 The Sports Facility Strategy also identifies a need for a new public swimming pool on Greenwich Peninsula to support the level of proposed housing growth. A publicly accessible swimming pool has been secured as part of the Greenwich Peninsula masterplan to meet this deficit.

- 13.40 Whilst Royal Greenwich has a good level of sports facilities in the borough there is a need to maintain and upgrade facilities and increase access especially in schools where facilities are available but limited to term time. In addition, they are often paid facilities that are unreasonably priced and not affordable for community groups Access to these facilities need to be improved.
- 13.41 Schools have a legal requirement under [The School Premises Regulations 2012](#) to provide suitable outdoor space for sports provision, it is important that this is considered at the application stage for new schools. It is not appropriate for schools to use park facilities instead of providing dedicated sports provision unless agreed with the Parks and Open Spaces Department.

14 Green Infrastructure

- 14.1 This section summarises the infrastructure requirements for green infrastructure including open spaces, allotments, cemeteries and SINCs.
- 14.2 The NPPF states that planning policies and decisions should “*plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.*” It states existing open spaces, sports and recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless the open space is clearly evidenced to be surplus to requirements, the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision with benefits outweighing the loss of current provision, or the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in quantity or quality in a suitable location.
- 14.3 A Greenwich Open Space and Nature Infrastructure Study (2025) was commissioned as part of the draft Local Plan evidence base to assess all types of green infrastructure across the borough including public parks and green spaces, children’s outdoor play provision, allotments, and urban greening (trees, living roofs), to recommend sites for designation as Borough Open Land. It assessed the accessibility, quality, quantity and value of the open spaces across the borough.
- 14.4 In terms of quantity, there is currently 2.93ha of public open space per 1000 population within the borough and the study recommends that this level of provision is increased to reach the Natural England recommendation of 3ha/1000 of the population. The study highlights where investment in existing spaces to enhance their role, or the provision of new spaces, should be focused.

Table 16 Figures of number of open spaces in spatial areas

Area of borough	Provision	Performance against standard
Greenwich Peninsula	0.77 ha / 1000 population	2.23 ha / 1,000 deficit
Woolwich	1.56 ha / 1000 population	1.44 ha / 1,000 deficit
Kidbrooke, Kidbrooke Village and Middle Park	1.64 ha / 1000 population	1.36 ha / 1,000 deficit
Charlton	2.23 ha / 1000 population	0.77 ha / 1,000 deficit
Greenwich, Westcombe Park and Blackheath	2.57 ha / 1,000 population	0.43 ha / 1,000 deficit
Eltham, Avery Hill, Coldharbour and New Eltham	2.63 ha / 1000 population	0.37 ha / 1,000 deficit
Thamesmead and Abbey Wood	3.36 ha / 1000 population	0.36 ha / 1,000 surplus
Plumstead and Shooters Hill	5.75 ha / 1000 population	2.75 ha / 1,000 surplus

- 14.5 As shown within table 16, in the borough Plumstead and Shooters Hill have the highest levels of accessible green space provision per 1000 population (5.75ha) followed by Thamesmead and Abbey Wood (3.36ha), pushing these areas both above the Natural England benchmark. The rest of the borough's areas are below this benchmark, with Greenwich Peninsula offering the lowest level of accessible green space at 0.77ha/1000 people, followed by Woolwich at 1.56 ha/1000 people. This trend is likely to be exacerbated in the borough as housing growth will be focused within Greenwich Peninsula, Woolwich and Charlton Peninsula due to these being London Plan opportunity areas.
- 14.6 In terms of quality and value, the Green Infrastructure Study found that just over a quarter of open spaces audited in the study were considered by residents to present lower quality and value and these spaces could benefit from investment to improve their functionality. This was particularly the case at the local and small local level of the hierarchy, whereas the majority of larger sites were within the higher quality and value grouping.
- 14.7 Although the green infrastructure study is based on 2018-based population projections and population growth may be higher than anticipated as part of the study, the principle of how green infrastructure will be delivered remains the same. Additional open space will need to be provided through new development to meet the quantity standard proposed in the Green Infrastructure Study (3 ha / 1,000 population) and or existing open spaces will need to be made more functional and accessible for a variety of users.
- 14.8 Given the increasing population and pressure to maximise land, open spaces have an increasing role to play as multi-functional spaces that meet a variety of needs. From traditional sports facilities including pitches and traditional children's play areas to MUGAs, tranquil space to relax and opportunities for informal play and recreation; these elements will form part of a well-designed open space. In addition, it will be important to improve and increase urban greening through green roofs and living walls, increase tree planting where provision is low and increase links between green and blue infrastructure across the borough to maximise biodiversity benefits.

Existing provision

- 14.9 There are 452 different open spaces within the Royal Borough totalling 1440.98 hectares of land, of which 62% of this provision is publicly accessible, 28% has restricted access and 10% has no access.

Publicly accessible open spaces

- 14.10 There are many different types of open space that provide different functions and the quantity and count of these types of spaces can be seen in table 15 below.
- 14.11 In land area terms, the largest proportion of publicly accessible open space is made up of the Parks and Gardens typology (365 ha) followed by natural and semi-natural green space (351ha), with provision for children and young people presenting the smallest area of spaces (10ha). By count, amenity green spaces are the most plentiful type of green space in Royal Greenwich (141), followed by provision for children and young people (138), likely because they are smaller in area so they can be more plentiful than larger sites for example large parks. By primary typology, 72% of the open spaces in Royal Greenwich are publicly accessible.

Table 17 Provision of publicly accessible open space by primary typology in Royal Greenwich

Primary Typology	Area in hectares (ha)	Count (number of sites)
Parks and gardens	365.49	51
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	350.89	28
Amenity greenspace	81.72	135
Green corridor	32.91	20
Civic spaces	10.31	10
Cemeteries and churchyards	46.08	9
Provision for children and young people	6.31	74
Total	893.71	327

14.12 Regarding accessibility of greenspace provision for the population, areas deficient in access are deemed to be those further than 400m from a small, pocket or local park, 1.2km from a district park and 3.2km from a metropolitan park. Generally, there is a borough deficiency in accessible open space of 0.25 ha/1,000 of the population, however accessibility of open spaces varies in different parts of the borough as public open space is unevenly distributed. It is therefore important that new developments provide adequate open space, especially in areas of deficiency to improve access to publicly open space for all. This is a particular priority where they are located in areas deficient in access to multiple types of accessible open space.

Allotments

14.13 There are 24 allotment sites in the borough, of which the council owns 18, with 15 directly managed by the council and three self-managed. Across the sites directly managed by the council, there are 881 allotment plots and 615 residents on a waiting list for allotments. There are also 2 community food growing areas in parks that are separate to the allotments. The most recent guidance from the National Allotment Society recommends that local authorities supply the equivalent of 20 plots per 1,000 of the population, with an average minimum size of 250m² for each plot. This would provide a standard of 0.5 ha / 1,000 of the population. However, this would be difficult to achieve in a largely urban context such as the Royal Borough of Greenwich. As a consequence, a lower standard of 0.07 ha / 1,000 of the population has been set in accordance with current provision to ensure there is no net loss in provision per capita. This provides a more realistic target for the Borough, and as such the provision of new allotments or food growing spaces are welcomed in new development but not required.

Biodiversity (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation)

- 14.14 Royal Greenwich supports 55 SINC's across the Royal Borough. These comprise seven sites of Metropolitan importance either partly or wholly within the Royal Borough, 16 sites of Borough Grade I importance, 18 of Borough Grade II and 14 of Local importance. These sites are significant for conserving important flora and fauna species, and when publicly accessible help to improve people's access to nature.
- 14.15 The London Plan states in Policy G6 that boroughs in their development plans, should: *"identify areas of deficiency in access to nature (i.e. areas that are more than 1km walking distance from an accessible Metropolitan or Borough SINC) and seek opportunities to address them."* The 2025 Open Space and Nature Infrastructure study identifies these areas of deficiency for each local plan policy area of the borough, however the study does not reflect potential changes in deficiency following the recent 2024 SINC study which proposes slight amendments to SINC boundaries and the addition/removal of some sites.
- 14.16 Based on existing data prior to 2024, the study establishes that across the borough there are areas where there is a deficiency in access to nature, however the extent of this land varies in different policy areas of the borough.

Table 18 Percentage of spatial areas with SINC Deficiency

Borough policy area	Percentage of area where there is a deficiency in access to nature (SINC's)
Charlton	29%
Eltham, Avery Hill, Coldharbour and New Eltham	17%
Greenwich, Blackheath and Westcombe Park	6%
Greenwich Peninsula	26%
Kidbrooke, Kidbrooke Village and Middle Park	24%
Plumstead and Shooters Hill	< 1%
Thamesmead and Abbey Wood	8%

Play and recreation spaces

- 14.17 There are 140 sites within the borough providing publicly accessible play provision for children and young people (77 as solely or largely play provision sites and 59 providing play provision as part of a larger site which may offer another use).
- 14.18 The London Plan recommends a provision of 10 m² of play per child (of any age). This is equivalent to 1 ha per 1,000 of children. The Open Space and Nature Infrastructure study displays that the provision in Royal Greenwich is currently 0.04 ha per 1000 of the population

aged under 18. This is significantly under the target provision, and as such opportunities must be taken to increase provision through new development.

Cemeteries

- 14.19 There are 9 publicly accessible cemeteries and churchyards and 1 cemetery or churchyard with restricted access in Royal Greenwich. An audit of London-wide burial provision conducted in 2011 estimated that Royal Greenwich would need an additional 11,162 burial spaces to be created by 2030/2031 in order to meet future demand.

Future Provision

- 14.20 The anticipated levels of housing and population growth as set out in Chapter 1, will require effective open space management to provide a sufficiently sized network of safe, clean, multi-functional green spaces for all residents.
- 14.21 It is clear from the Green Infrastructure Study that new open spaces will be needed to ensure the level of level of provision is increased to reach the Natural England recommendation of 3ha/1000 of the population. The opportunity areas of Greenwich Peninsula, Woolwich and Charlton Peninsula, which are some of the areas expected to see the highest levels of population growth, are also the areas that have the least amount of existing public open space. This will need to be addressed as part of the redevelopment of these areas through new open spaces and improvements to existing open space.
- 14.22 Thamesmead Waterside is another opportunity area with significant future growth anticipated in its development as a government designated New Town. This area meets the quantity benchmarks for open spaces, but many spaces are not publicly accessible. As part of the redevelopment of this area their quality and accessibility will need to be improved to meet resident needs. One element of this is already secured as £20 million of long-term funding from the government's Pride of Place funding has been secured to improve Thamesmead's Birchmere Park over the next ten years.⁴⁵

Public Open Space

- 14.23 As the population increases and a large proportion of new housing in the borough is flats, open space becomes increasingly important for offering a variety of functions for a variety of people, not just a visual break from the urban landscape. As the population in Royal Greenwich is set to increase, and pressures on land limit the council's ability to create new parks, and it is likely the performance against the 3ha/1000 people open space quantity benchmark will decrease unless new developments provide publicly accessible open space.
- 14.24 Whilst the borough has many open spaces a large proportion of these are private and therefore not accessible to the public. Private open spaces include uses such as golf courses which do not offer the same value as public open space. As illustrated in the Open Space and Nature Infrastructure Study, the borough's public open spaces offer a range of health and wellbeing benefits and are used for recreation, sport and physical activity, family outings, playgrounds, dog walking, use of facilities, rest and relaxation, socialising, events, food growing, habitats for wildlife and access to nature. Requirements for Public Open Space as

⁴⁵ <https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/news/2026/pride-place-funding-ps20million-announced-thamesmead-birchmere-park>

part of new developments are separate from, and in addition to, requirements for communal amenity space for residents as these spaces serve different purposes.

- 14.25 New open spaces should be created to meet increasing recreational, leisure and nature needs associated with population growth, creating multifunctional spaces for all ages with facilities such as playgrounds, sports facilities or MUGAs and natural habitats as well as green space. This is important in smaller parks as well as larger parks, to ensure these spaces contribute to health and wellbeing not just visual amenity. New open spaces and play space should be publicly accessible, clearly signposted and designed to be inclusive of all ages and abilities.
- 14.26 As the population continues to grow and the pressure on space for competing uses increases, under-used grey spaces should also be used to provide informal sport and recreational opportunities or natural environments to increase wildlife and biodiversity.
- 14.27 There is also the need to improve the quality of existing parks to ensure they are well-managed and meeting the needs of residents. Park Management plans are important to ensure that future maintenance is carried out to a high standard in large and priority parks. The Green Flag Award scheme is a nationally recognised standard for a good quality park, which is recognised and endorsed by central government. The Green Flag award criteria upon which parks can be judged, will be used to assist in the management of all parks to help ensure they are maintained to a good standard, and ensure that the existing 12 parks meeting Green Flag or other similar quality standards do not reduce in quality. The Royal Borough has also committed to working in partnership with community groups to secure further quality awards including Community Green Flag Awards.
- 14.28 An assessment of the parks and open spaces in the Royal Borough was completed in 2016 as part of the Green Infrastructure Study. This assessment involved an audit of all publicly accessible open spaces using the Green Flag Criteria. The results of the assessment will be used to guide the sustainable management of the Royal Borough's parks and open spaces and to aid priorities of enhancement projects.

Allotments

- 14.29 Allotments are an important element of encouraging healthy lifestyles. They support objectives in the Corporate Plan⁴⁶ to address food poverty and poor nutrition by providing opportunities to grow healthy and affordable food and combat social isolation. Although there are significant waiting lists for allotments in Royal Greenwich, as the population continues to grow it becomes more difficult to identify large areas of land for allotments when there is an ever-increasing pressure to provide more housing.
- 14.30 There may be opportunities to reduce the size of plots within existing allotments to provide smaller more manageable plots for residents⁴⁷ as well as opportunities to provide new small allotments or community growing opportunities in new developments. This will be particularly important in Charlton Riverside, Plumstead and Greenwich including Greenwich Peninsula considering the current waiting list in and around these areas. These allotments/community growing spaces could be located in grey spaces and on roof terraces but must be clearly accessible.

⁴⁶ [Royal Greenwich Corporate Plan](#)

⁴⁷ Royal Greenwich Allotment Action Plan

Biodiversity (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation)

14.31 The Royal Borough recently commissioned a review of the borough's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (2024) alongside a Strategic Biodiversity Assessment. As a result of this review, the following changes to the SINC portfolio have been proposed:

- Two new SINC's have been identified
- Three existing SINC's are recommended for deletion from the network
- Two Potential SINC's have been identified for future consideration
- 18 SINC's have been reduced in size by a total of 47.4 hectares
- 16 SINC's have been increased in size by a total of 17.3 hectares
- One SINC has been split into two
- One Borough I site has been demoted to Borough II
- Five Borough II sites have been demoted to Local
- Four Borough II sites have been promoted to Borough I
- One Local site has been promoted to Borough I
- Two Local sites have been promoted to Borough II

14.32 The outcome of this review is pending determination following the consideration of recommendations by the London Wildlife Sites Board and Local Sites Selection Panel, following which, the 2024 SINC review will be finalised and re-published.

Parks and open spaces

14.33 The Parks and Open Space Strategy aims to protect and enhance biodiversity within parks and open spaces in the Royal Borough and ensure the future management arrangements support the [Biodiversity Action Plan](#) (BAP). It will be important to maximise urban greening and create open spaces that help to make the borough more resilient to climate change by enhancing biodiversity, addressing the urban heat island effect, increasing sustainable drainage and reducing flooding. Landscaping and urban greening should be designed to ecologically enhance and, where possible, physically connect, existing parks and open spaces.

Play and recreation spaces

14.34 Traditional play equipment normally caters for younger children and there are limited activities available for older children. As set out in the Parks and Open Space Strategy, the Royal Borough will consider how parks managed by the borough can accommodate play for a wider range of ages and interests. The Royal Borough will consider how to improve areas for teenagers to actively use our parks, in addition to providing play equipment for younger children.

14.35 New open spaces should also consider how to provide play for a range of ages and improve formal play facilities for older children 6-11 years old and for ages 12+ as well as provide informal play areas. For instance, larger more challenging facilities for older children could be provided in parks alongside formal play areas for younger children. MUGAs could also be designed to incorporate space for youths to socialise as well as take part in physical activity. The Mayor's Play and Informal Recreation SPG suggests Skate parks, bicycle tracks, climbing walls, adventure playgrounds, fitness trails and open access sports facilities would also provide suitable space for youths.

- 14.36 Whilst informal recreation such as doorstep play space and linear space compliment traditional forms of play such as playgrounds these smaller types of space should not be seen as alternatives to larger open spaces. It is important, especially for larger development sites, that parks and open spaces are large enough to meet the needs of the additional population and offer a range of benefits and functions for all ages. Furthermore, where smaller green spaces are provided in addition to larger parks and open spaces these should create interest with their landscaping and have a clear function such as seating to provide a relaxing tranquil space, natural areas or informal play opportunities.
- 14.37 All large development sites including the Peninsula, Charlton Riverside and Thamesmead will be expected to provide a variety of open spaces as described above.

Cemeteries

- 14.38 In order to provide the additional 11,162 burial spaces anticipated be required in Royal Greenwich by 2030/2031, new spaces will need to be provided in currently unused parts of existing cemeteries, or the council may need to consider re-use of existing graves to generate new capacity.

Priority Spending Projects 2025-2040

The table below sets out the priority projects needed to support housing and population growth across the borough and the anticipated costs and funding mechanisms.

Infrastructure Project	Location	Timescales/ phasing	Project Status	Estimated Capital Costs	Funding Gap	Funding Source	Delivery Lead	Delivery Partners	Delivery Mechanism	Critical or non-critical
Physical Infrastructure										
Digital Connectivity										
Provide Fibre to the Premises (FttP) to enable gigabit connectivity	To complete Boroughwide coverage and address not-spots	2026-2030	Options being explored	£4.5M	£4.5M	Private Sector; Government Funding through DSIT; CIL	RBG with Private Sector	Private partner sector to be selected	JV Partnership	Non-Critical
Fibre connectivity within social housing blocks to support IOT devices & enhanced broadband for tenants	Boroughwide – RBG Housing Estates & Premises	2026-2030	Options being explore	Est £7.5M (based on 21,000 units)	£7.5M	Private Sector; CIL; Government funding.	RBG	Private sector partners to be identified	To be determined	Non-Critical
Enhanced mobile connectivity & 5G	Boroughwide	Short – Medium Term	At planning stage	£5M	TBC	Private sector companies	RBG			Non-Critical
Vehicle to Everything Infrastructure to support new mobility solutions	Boroughwide	Short-Medium	Concept Stage	c£10M	c£10M	unknown	RBG	Unknown	unknown	Non-Critical
CCTV upgrade	Boroughwide	Short-Term	Approved	£3.7M	£c1M	RBG	RBG [Community Safety]	Subject to procurement	Contract	Non-Critical
Energy and Utilities										
Woolwich District Heat network	Woolwich	Long term	Strategic business case level	£100m network and installation costs (network costs for circa 2km including key sites such Woolwich Exchange, Woolwich Centre, and emerging development sites in Woolwich Centre and cost of the energy	Circa £70m dependent on Green Heat Network Funding GHNF	Currently unknown depending on Council's role in the delivery of the network. Funding Sources include however: • Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP) • The GLA's Decentralised	RBG and/or Energy Services Company(s) (ESCO's)	RBG/private sector partner Final details TBC	Local Plan, Carbon Neutral Action Plan, London Plan	Critical

Infrastructure Project	Location	Timescales/ phasing	Project Status	Estimated Capital Costs	Funding Gap	Funding Source	Delivery Lead	Delivery Partners	Delivery Mechanism	Critical or non-critical
				centre, excavation costs and any modifications required by buildings to connect to the heat network)		Energy Enabling Project (DEEP) Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) Great Heat Network Fund (GHNF)				
West Greenwich Peninsula district heat network	West Greenwich Peninsula	Long term	Techno economic stage	£30m	£21m	Private sector plus potentially GHNF	RBG	Private sector partners	Local Plan, Carbon Neutral Action Plan, London Plan	Non-Critical
Charlton district heat network	Charlton	Long term	Techno economic stage	£15m	£10.5m	Private sector plus potentially GHNF	RBG	Private sector partners	Local Plan, Carbon Neutral Action Plan, London Plan	Non-Critical
Abbey Wood East district heat network	Abbey Wood East	Long term	Techno economic stage	£35m	£24.5m	Private sector plus potentially GHNF	RBG	Private sector partners	Local Plan, Carbon Neutral Action Plan, London Plan	Non-Critical
Thamesmead North district heat network	Thamesmead North	Long term	Techno economic stage	£5m	£3.5m	Private sector plus potentially GHNF	RBG	Private sector partners	Local Plan, Carbon Neutral Action Plan, London Plan	Non-Critical
Transport										
Further development of Greenwich Town Centre Liveable Neighbourhood schemes and place making	Greenwich Town Centre	1-5 years	Concept	£10m+	Unknown	TfL/S106/CIL	RBG	TfL	Local Implementation Plan (LIP)	Non-Critical
Healthy Streets style neighbourhood management schemes and School Streets in response to local evidence and demand	Borough wide	1-5 years	Feasibility	£5-10m		TfL/S106	RBG	TfL	Local Implementation Plan (LIP)	Non-Critical
Provide north-south bus connections through the Borough, including bus priority measures	North-South	1-5 years	Feasibility	Unknown	Unknown	TfL/S106/CIL	TfL/RBG	TfL	Local Implementation Plan (LIP)	Non-Critical
Bus priority and bus accessibility improvements along bus routes boroughwide	Borough wide	5years	Various	£5-10m	Unknown	TfL/S106/CIL	Shared	TfL	Local Implementation Plan (LIP)	Non-Critical

Infrastructure Project	Location	Timescales/ phasing	Project Status	Estimated Capital Costs	Funding Gap	Funding Source	Delivery Lead	Delivery Partners	Delivery Mechanism	Critical or non-critical
Improve public transport accessibility through the delivery of a new bus-gated road within Charlton Riverside, including new bus stops, improved/new crossings, and segregated cycling infrastructure on Anchor and Hope Lane between Bugsbys Way and Thames Path. In addition, investigate alterations to Eastmoor Street to remove through traffic and improve the quality of the Thames Path	Charlton	5-10 years	Concept	£20-30m	Unknown	TFL/S106/CIL/G LA	Shared	TfL, GLA and land owners.	Local Implementation Plan (LIP) / Planning	Critical
DLR Extension to Thamesmead	Thamesmead	5-10 years	Funding Collaboration & Development of Business Case and funding approach Agreement	£1.6bn+	unknown	Transport for London (TfL) in partnership with the London Borough of Newham and Royal Borough of Greenwich, local landowners, Homes England, and the Greater London Authority (GLA).	TfL and GLA	TfL, GLA, Bexley, Newham and landowners.	TfL	
Thamesmead bus lane, walking and cycling proposals	Abbey Wood-Thamesmead-Woolwich	5-10 years	Funded	£22M	None	Homes England	TfL	TfL, GLA		
Healthy Streets improvements in Thamesmead and Abbey Wood OAPF (Major projects to tackle severance caused by existing infrastructure and	Thamesmead	10 years	Concept	£40m	Unknown	TFL/S106/CIL	RBG	TfL, GLA and London Borough of Bexley/ Thames Water (Ridgeway) Environment Agency.	Planning	

Infrastructure Project	Location	Timescales/ phasing	Project Status	Estimated Capital Costs	Funding Gap	Funding Source	Delivery Lead	Delivery Partners	Delivery Mechanism	Critical or non-critical
improvements to local connections across the OAPF area including accessing and improvements to the Ridgeway)										
Utilise and expand the river service (intensify use, protect and enhance river bus services, improve integration with other modes and supporting the provision and accessibility of pier stops)	Woolwich, Charlton Riverside, Greenwich Peninsula and Thamesmead.	5-10 years	Feasibility	TBC - £30m+	Unknown	SI06/CIL	TBC	TfL, river service providers, neighbouring / cross-river boroughs.	LIP	Non-Critical
Introduction of parking restrictions and kerbside management as required, in response to local demand and parking stress	Borough wide	1-5 years	Concept	£5-10m	Unknown	TfL/SI06/CIL (and cost recovery through user chargers)	RBG	-	Carbon Neutral Plan	Non-Critical
Reduce speed limits to 20mph on all residential roads and appropriate major roads	Borough wide	1-5 years	Concept	£1m+	Unknown	TfL/SI06/CIL	RBG	TfL.	Carbon Neutral Plan	Non-Critical
Increase the number of electric vehicle charging points in the borough and assess business charging needs	Borough wide	1-5 years	Concept /Ongoing	£5-10m	Unknown	TfL/GLA/DfT/SI06/CIL	RBG, TfL and providers.	RBG, TfL and providers.	Carbon Neutral Plan	Non-Critical
Reduce car parking spaces and increase cycle parking, including at transport nodes	Borough wide	5-10 years	Concept	£1.5m+	Unknown	TfL / SI06 / CIL / revenue from operators	RBG.	RBG	Draft Carbon Neutral Plan	Non-Critical
Create new and improve existing cycle network infrastructure and	Borough wide	5-10 years	Concept	£15m+	Unknown	TfL/SI06/CIL	RBG/TfL	RBG/TfL	Draft Carbon Neutral Plan	Non-Critical

Infrastructure Project	Location	Timescales/ phasing	Project Status	Estimated Capital Costs	Funding Gap	Funding Source	Delivery Lead	Delivery Partners	Delivery Mechanism	Critical or non-critical
walking routes, including Greenwich Park to Shooters Hill, North to East Greenwich, Eltham to Greenwich and other strategic cycling schemes										
Elizabeth Line second entrance at Woolwich station	Woolwich	5-10 years	Feasibility	Unknown	Unknown	TfL/SI06/CIL	RBG/TfL	TfL	Planning	Non-Critical
Local Road Safety Schemes at priority locations	Borough wide	Ongoing	Ongoing	£2m	Unknown	TfL	RBG	TfL	Local Implementation Plan (LIP)	Non-Critical
School and adult cycle training programme - tendered contract with Bikeworks which includes all output and outcome targets	Borough wide	Ongoing	Ongoing	£500k-1m	0	TfL	RBG	TfL	Local Implementation Plan (LIP)	Non-Critical
Replacement of existing fleet to zero emission vehicles	Borough wide	5-10 years	Feasibility study	TBC - £8m (est)		Unknown	Fleet Management		Carbon Neutral Plan	Non-Critical
Electrical capacity and infrastructure upgrades to support ZEV fleet	Borough wide	5-10 years	Feasibility study	TBC - £5m (est)		Unknown	Fleet Management		Carbon Neutral Plan	Non-Critical
Reconfigure Birchmere Depot	Thamesmead	3-5 years	Feasibility study completed	TBC - £60m (est.)	Unknown	Unknown	RBG – Capital Delivery & Investment	RBG Fleet/ GS Plus	Growth bid	Critical
Thames Path Upgrade	North of Borough	Ongoing	Feasibility study	Unknown	Unknown	TfL/SI06/CIL	RBG	TfL / Landowners	Local Implementation Plan (LIP) / Planning	Non-Critical
Greenwich and Woolwich Foot Tunnel Regeneration Works Packages •Electrical upgrade •Ventilation •Digital Advertising and Lighting •CND and inclusive designs •Lift replacement •Building fabric conservation	Greenwich, Woolwich	2027-2030	Build (Works)	£12.7m (est)	£12.7m (est)	TfL/SI06/CIL/GL A	RBG	TfL	Local Implementation Plan (LIP)	Non-Critical

Infrastructure Project	Location	Timescales/ phasing	Project Status	Estimated Capital Costs	Funding Gap	Funding Source	Delivery Lead	Delivery Partners	Delivery Mechanism	Critical or non-critical
Transport Infrastructures Bridge Programmes (class A I (Safety Critical) carrying strategic and BPRN- priority for remedial works in council owned bridges that has structurally significant, safety critical and stability defect, that poses an imminent risk to the structure integrity and unsuspecting travelling public.	Greenwich	1-5 years	Ongoing -Design and Build (Supply chain Term Maintenance Contractor) council led	£1.6m	£10K	TfL/S106/CIL/ DfT	RBG	TfL	Local Implementation Plan (LIP)	Critical
Lighting Control Pillar Upgrades	Boroughwi de	5 years to complete	Surveys being undertaken	£1.8m	£300k per year for 5 years + contingency	Unknown	RBG	Conways, UKPN	Term Contractor- Conways	Non-Critical
North Greenwich Bus Station Redevelopment	Greenwich Peninsula	Long term	Planning Stage (S106 Signed)	£19,800,000 (as per s106)		CIL/S106	TfL/Developer	RBG		
Cycle Facilities Works (a) provision of segregated cycle facilities along the realigned Edmund Halley Way connecting to the Bus Station and Station Square (which shall be segregated on the western side of the re-aligned Edmund Halley up to the Design District within Plot 11 only) and related signage (the Edmund	Greenwich Peninsula	Long Term	Planning Stage (S106 Signed)	£15m+		CIL/S106	TfL/Developer	RBG		

Infrastructure Project	Location	Timescales/ phasing	Project Status	Estimated Capital Costs	Funding Gap	Funding Source	Delivery Lead	Delivery Partners	Delivery Mechanism	Critical or non-critical
- Halley Way Cycle Works); and (b) the upgrading of the cycle path on the eastern side of Millennium Way including removing obstructions resurfacing, related signage and remarking and linking into the wider cycle network where appropriate (the Millennium Way Cycle Works).										
Gateway Junction Improvements: - Gateway Junction 1 – improve northbound merge facility onto A102 - Gateway Junction 5 – improvements to off slip from A102 to West side of Greenwich Peninsula Ward - Millennium Way / Blackwall Lane / John Harrison Way	Greenwich Peninsula	Long term	Planning Stage (S106 Signed)	£15M+		S106/CIL	TfL/Developer	RBG		Non-Critical

Infrastructure Project	Location	Timescales/ phasing	Project Status	Estimated Capital Costs	Funding Gap	Funding Source	Delivery Lead	Delivery Partners	Delivery Mechanism	Critical or non-critical
Waste										
Waste Transfer Station Upgrade	Borough wide	2027-2028	Pre-procurement stage	Up to £5m	£5m	Unknown/will need to be built into the wider contract retender	RBG	TBC	New transfer station contract	Critical
Household Waste and Recycling Centre	Borough wide	2027-28	Not started	c.£200k	c.£200k	Unknown/will need to be built into the wider contract retender	RBG	TBC	New transfer station contract	Non-Critical
Additional waste collection and street cleansing vehicle to support borough growth	Borough wide	2022-2030	Not started	c.£2.5m		unknown	RBG			Critical
Vehicles and containers to support separate food waste collections	Borough wide	2026-2027	Not started	c.£2m		Vehicle Replacement Programme (VRP) and built into Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) projects	RBG			Non-Critical
Social Infrastructure										
Health										
Gallions Reach Health Centre expansion, modernisation and refurbishment	Thamesmead	Long Term	Concept	Not identified as yet	Not identified as yet	CIL/s106	SEL ICB (Greenwich)/ Peabody and Lend Lease JV / RBG / ICB (Thamesmead Waterfront)	RBG/ GP practice		Critical
New health centre within new Thamesmead Waterfront Development										
Modernise and repurpose under used floorspace at Millenium Health and Well Being Centre	Greenwich Peninsula	Short Term	Underway	£800,000	N/A	S106	SEL ICB	RBG		Non-Critical
New Health centre as secured through s106	Greenwich Peninsula	Long Term	Not started	Not identified as yet	Not identified as yet	Developer	Developer	RBG/SEL ICB		Critical
New Community Health and Well Being Centre	Charlton Riverside	Long Term	Concept	Not identified as yet	Not identified as yet	Not identified as yet. Some funding likely to	NHS or SEL	RBG		Critical

Infrastructure Project	Location	Timescales/ phasing	Project Status	Estimated Capital Costs	Funding Gap	Funding Source	Delivery Lead	Delivery Partners	Delivery Mechanism	Critical or non-critical
Ferryview Health Centre – increase practice capacity or provide alternative facility	Woolwich	Medium to long term	Concept	Not identified as yet	Not identified as yet	Not identified as yet come from CIL/S106	SEL ICB	RBG		Critical
Redevelop/extend/reconfigure and redesign Queen Elizabeth Hospital: • Expansion and reconfiguration of ED and associated wards • Expansion of clinical capacity and bed spaces in surgery, women's, children, sexual health and allied clinical services • Expansion of outpatient space to increase capacity	Woolwich	PFI exit in 2030 will initiate comprehensive redevelopment. Priority is UEC with redevelopment of bespoke new build 'emergency	Business case in progress	£100m	Not identified as yet	Not identified as yet – must be funded through health funding (s106 and CIL cannot be used for this)	Lewisham and Greenwich Trust	SEL ICB		Non-Critical
Plumstead Health Centre / Mustafa Practice redevelopment of the Plumstead Health Centre to co-locate practices and optimise use of Garlands Road	Plumstead	Medium to long term	Concept	Circa £4m	Not identified as yet	Not identified as yet	SEL		Oxleas	Non-Critical
Wensley Close/Eltham Community Hospital –optimisation of the hospital and repurpose under used	Eltham	Medium to Long Term	Concept	Not identified as yet	Not identified as yet	Not identified as yet	SEL ICB		Oxleas	Non-Critical

Infrastructure Project	Location	Timescales/ phasing	Project Status	Estimated Capital Costs	Funding Gap	Funding Source	Delivery Lead	Delivery Partners	Delivery Mechanism	Critical or non-critical
floor space for clinical purposes										Non-Critical
Cultural Facilities										
Archive, Library Collection centre	Charlton	Short-medium	Concept - Options Analysis for sites	£5M	tbc	RBG / DCMS / ACE / NLHF	RGHT	RBG, GLL	Culture strategy Corporate Capital Strategy	
Refurbishment to Charlton House Heritage Estate to support community use of the building	Charlton	Medium	Updated costed investment plan needed	£5-10M	Tbc	RBG / DCMS / ACE / NLHF	RGHT	RBG	Culture strategy Conservation Plan Corporate Capital Strategy	
Invest in sustainability (energy efficiency) Woolwich Works buildings	Woolwich Arsenal	Short-medium	Costed works plan required	£1	tbc	RBG / DCMS / ACE / NLHF	Woolwich Works/RBG	RBG	Culture strategy Conservation Plan Corporate Capital Strategy	Non-Critical
Education										
New 2x 2FE primary schools (secured as part of masterplan)	Greenwich Peninsula	Long term	Planning stage	unknown		Developer	RBG		Developer Agreement / School Place Planning Report	Critical
New 3 FE primary school	Thamesmea d	Long term	Concept	unknown		Developer	unknown		Masterplan	Critical
New 6FE primary and secondary ‘all through’ school	Charlton Riverside	Long term	Concept	unknown		Developer	unknown		Masterplan	Critical
Rowan Wood All- through School (severe/complex needs)	Kidbrooke / Plumstead	Short-medium	Underway	Estimated £50m (Primary phase subject to feasibility/design)		RBG	RBG		School Place Planning Report	Critical
New Transition Learning Centre (TLC) for Young Learners aged 19-25 with SEND	Eltham	Short term	Underway	£15m		RBG	RBG		School Place Planning Report	Critical
Emergency Services										
Provision of a neighbourhood Police Office	Charlton Hornfair	Short term	Planned	Estimated £1m		S106/CIL or developer to address infrastructure pressures from development				Non-Critical
Sports and Leisure										
Provision of new swimming pool	Greenwich Peninsula	Medium Term	Planning Stage (agreed as part of masterplan)	Unknown		Developer	Private Developer			Critical

Infrastructure Project	Location	Timescales/ phasing	Project Status	Estimated Capital Costs	Funding Gap	Funding Source	Delivery Lead	Delivery Partners	Delivery Mechanism	Critical or non-critical
Replacement of Thamesmere Leisure Centre	Thamesmead	Long term	Concept (site allocation and TOAPF)	£40 -£60m		External/RBG/Sports England	TBC	GLA/ housing/ CIL/ s106/ SE		Critical
Multi-sport facility without a gym within Abbey Wood – with a basketball hall, indoor cricket nets, studio space, meeting space, community café	Abbey Wood	Medium		£15 - £20m		External/ RBG				Non- Critical
Samuel Montague refurbishment or rebuild – possible school link as a community use site with sports facilities	Kidbrooke	Medium		£5 - £10m		External/ RBG				Non- Critical
Full Size Astro Turf pitch – Metrogas FC	Eltham	Short	Underway	£1m	£250,000	Football Foundation / Club	Football foundation	LFA / Metrogas	PPS/ LFFP	Non- Critical
Small sided astro pitch – Teviot Rangers FC	Plumstead	Short	Planning	£800,000	£250,000	Football Foundation/ Club	Football foundation	LFA/Teviot FC	LFFP	Non- Critical
Full size astro turf rugby pitch REFURB – Blackheath Rugby Club Well Hall	Eltham	Medium		£300,000		RFU/ FF/Club		RFU/FA/FF	PPS	Non- Critical
Full size astro REFURB Coldharbour Leisure Centre	Coldharbour	Medium		£300,000		FF / GLL / RB	Football Foundation	FF / GLL / RB	PPS/LFFP	Non- Critical
Full size pitch REFURB Samuel Montague youth centre	Kidbrooke	Medium		£300,000		External / SMYC				Non- Critical
Full size astro REFURB Meridian Sports Club	Charlton	Short		£300,000		External				Non- Critical
Full size astro turf pitch Eltham town FC	Eltham	Long		£1m	£250,000 RBG contribution	FF / Eltham Town FC	Football Foundation	FF/FA		Non- Critical
Full size astro turf pitch Greenwich Borough FC (GB10)	Eltham	Medium		£1m	£250,000 RBG contribution	FF / RBG / GB10	Football Foundation	GB10/FA		Non- Critical
Full size astro turf pitch London Marathon Playing Fields	Shooters Hill	Long		£1m	£250,000 RBG contribution	FF/LMPF	Football Foundation	FF/FA		Non- Critical
New astro pitch provision various sites – john road, uni of	Various	Long		£4m	£1m (contribution	External/RBG				Non- Critical

Infrastructure Project	Location	Timescales/ phasing	Project Status	Estimated Capital Costs	Funding Gap	Funding Source	Delivery Lead	Delivery Partners	Delivery Mechanism	Critical or non-critical
greenwich, artice stadium and others					£250,000 RBG per site)					
Thomas Tallis school – refurbish the MUGA area	Blackheath	Short/ Medium		£1m		PFI/External/ RBG				Non- Critical
Crown woods academy astro-pitch replacements	Eltham	Medium		£1m		PFI/ External/ RBG				Non- Critical
Floodlight installation at Tennis Courts. All sites following recent refurbishments of courts	Various	Short/medium		£350,000		RBG/LTA	RBG	LTA/RBG/Sport England		Non- Critical
Tennis & Padel Covered Canopy Facility with ancillary facilities	TBC	Short/medium	Concept	£2m		RBG/LTA				Non- Critical
Pickleball Courts with gate access	Various	Short/medium	Concept	£1m		RBG/External				Non- Critical
Padel Facilities	Various	Short/medium	Concept	£1m		RBG/External				Non- Critical
MUGA upgrades at Hawksmoor Youth Club	Thamesmead	Medium		£500,000		External/RBG				Non- Critical
MUGA upgrades at Glyndon/Villa Road	Glyndon	Medium		£500,000		RBG/External				Non- Critical
Basketball Facility upgrade at Kidbrooke Green Park	Kidbrooke	Short	Concept	£300,000		RBG/External	RBG	London Marathon Trust, Access Spor, Basketball England, GLA		Non- Critical
MUGA upgrade at Altash Gardens Basketball &Football	Coldharbour	Short	Concept	£0.5-1m		External/RBG	RBG	London Marathon Trust, Access Spor, Basketball England, GLA		Non- Critical
Abbey Wood Park – new football centre, improvements to basketball and hard surface area including changing facilities, accessible toilet facilities, improved pathways & improved access routes, wayfinding signage, new play areas, SUDS,	Abbey Wood	Short / Medium	Phased approach	£2 - £3m		External/ RBG/ Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Funds (19K Signage / 33K for Park improvements)				Non- Critical

Infrastructure Project	Location	Timescales/ phasing	Project Status	Estimated Capital Costs	Funding Gap	Funding Source	Delivery Lead	Delivery Partners	Delivery Mechanism	Critical or non-critical
green infrastructure improvements, public realm and seating across the whole park including improvements to hard surface play area and walking routes.										
Charlton Park cricket nets installation	Charlton	Short	Underway	£0.5m		External/ RBG				Non- Critical
Indoor Cricket and Multi Sports Hub	TBC	Long	£1.5-£3m							Non- Critical
Astro MUGA facility with a small running track around it at Abbey Wood Park	Abbey Wood	Medium		£1 - £2m		External/ RBG				Non- Critical
Astro turf facility at Swingate Lane Playing Fields / Rose Cottage Playing Fields	Woolwich	Medium		£1m		External/ RBG				Non- Critical
Astro MUGA and P5K running track	Peninsula – need to include within the masterplan	Short/ Medium	Concept (based on Newham MUGA in Stratford)	£1 - £2m		External/ RBG				Critical
Green Infrastructure										
Improving/modernising Park Play Playgrounds	Abbey Wood, East Greenwich, Eltham Park & Progress and Kidbrooke Park	Present – 2030	Planning stages	Circa £700k (170k 106 already identified East Greenwich Pleasance)	£530k	S106 and CIL	RBG	Park Friend Groups	PEOS managed tender process	Non-Critical
Repairs and improvement to park buildings, footpaths and other hard infrastructure	Various	Present- 2030	Underway	Circa £500k-£1M	Circa £500k-£1M	RBG	RBG	DP&G	DP&G Term Contractors and Teder process	Non-Critical
St Alfege Park-Improvement Master Plan - Phase 2	Greenwich West	2024-2026	Contract Award Stage	Circa £300k	Nil	S106 and Parks Reserve	RBG	Parks Friends Groups	PEOS managed tender process	Non-Critical
Creation of a natural burial areas in Woolwich Cemetery	Plumstead	Present-2030	Planning Stage	Not identified as yet	Not identified as yet	S106, CIL and Council Capital	RBG	N/A	TBC	Non-Critical

Infrastructure Project	Location	Timescales/ phasing	Project Status	Estimated Capital Costs	Funding Gap	Funding Source	Delivery Lead	Delivery Partners	Delivery Mechanism	Critical or non-critical
Creation of c.33,000sqm new North to South linear park.	Charlton Riverside	2029-2032	Concept based on regeneration vision as reflected in the draft Local Plan.	£7.5m	Not identified as yet	SI06, CIL and RBG/external Funding	RBG	N/A	Charlton Riverside regeneration	Critical
Delivery of c.45,000sqm of new public realm.	Charlton Riverside	2029-2032	Concept based on regeneration vision as reflected in the draft Local Plan.	£30m	Not identified as yet	SI06, CIL and RBG/external Funding	RBG	N/A	Charlton Riverside regeneration	Critical
Repairs and improvement to Moore Park	Charlton Riverside	2028-2031	Concept based on regeneration vision as reflected in the draft Local Plan.	£5m	Not identified as yet	SI06, CIL and RBG/external Funding	RBG	N/A	Charlton Riverside regeneration	Non-Critical
Blue and Green infrastructure public realm improvements- King Henrys Docks, Woolwich Dockyard	Woolwich Dockyard	2030-2035	Concept based on site allocation as London plan	£15m	Not identified as yet, £10m.	SI06, CIL and RBG/external Funding	RBG	N/A	Potential Estate Regeneration/ densification regeneration	Non-Critical