

Brent Walking Strategy

Department
Regeneration & Environment

Person Responsible
Monica Li

Created
21 February 2017

Next Review
March 2018

Screening Data

1. What are the objectives and expected outcomes of your proposal? Why is it needed? Make sure you highlight any proposed changes.

The Walking Strategy sets out Brent Council's visions for walking in the borough including a list of actions to enable Brent to achieve its objectives. It forms part of a package of strategies which supports the Brent Long Term Transport Strategy (LTTS) 2015-2035. The LTTS itself was developed to reflect the objectives set out in both the Borough Plan and the Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS) and outlines Brent's intentions to provide a transport network which supports economic development and works to improve safety, accessibility and inclusivity in the borough whilst also mitigating, where possible, the negative impact of traffic growth.

The Mayor of London has recently published his long-term vision 'Healthy Streets for London' to encourage Londoners to walk more so Brent Council's Walking Strategy is particularly timely as it looks to take this on board.

Public and stakeholder engagement was undertaken to determine the issues that people faced when walking in Brent and what would encourage them to walk more. This led to the development of an overall vision for walking in the borough which is to "Make Brent a healthy, active and safe borough where walking is a practical and pleasant option for all".

In order to achieve this vision the Walking Strategy contains three objectives:

1. Provide a better environment and improve the experience of walking within the borough, ensuring it is accessible and inclusive for all
2. Promote walking as a healthy and sustainable way to travel as well as to increase personal activity
3. Improve the perceived and actual safety and security of pedestrians

A strategy for walking is needed in Brent for a number of reasons:

- Continued population growth;
- Lower than average walking trip rates across all age groups;
- Numerous pedestrian accident hotspots across the borough;
- Existing deterrents or obstacles to walking;
- As a way of improving health and wellbeing; and
- Increasing road congestion and air pollution.

Brent's population grew from just over 311 thousand people in 2011 to over 324 thousand people in 2015 and is set to continue rising, reaching over 350 thousand people by 2022. This increase brings with it a number of challenges and will mean more pedestrians of all ages on Brent's streets.

The London Travel Demand Survey (LTDS), undertaken annually by Transport for London (TfL), shows that average walking trip rates in the borough are considerably lower than those of Outer London as a whole or Greater London. Brent residents undertake, on average, 0.49 walking trips per day compared to 0.59 walking trips by Outer London residents and 0.72 walking trips per day by Greater London residents. The average length of a walking trip per day for Brent residents is 0.3km; the fifth lowest of all London boroughs.

Children walk the most in Brent with those aged between five and 16 undertaking on average 0.72 walking trips per day. However this is still below the London average of 0.81 walking trips per day. In all other age categories, Brent residents walk considerably less than both London and Outer London residents (Table 1).

Table 1: Number of walk trips per person per day by age, three-year average, 2013/14 to 2015/16

	5-16 years	17-24 years	25-44 years	45-59 years	60-64 years	65+ years
Brent residents	0.72	0.4	0.57	0.5	0.45	0.47
Outer London residents	0.71	0.52	0.69	0.62	0.61	0.59
Greater London	0.81	0.85	0.65	0.88	0.94	1.05

Source: London Travel Demand Survey, Transport for London

Accident data highlights several pedestrian hot spots in the borough. Namely, the B4565 Wembley Hill Road and Empire Way, the A404 Wembley High Road and Harrow Road; Kingsbury roundabout; the A5 Cricklewood Broadway; and Harlesden High Street. The Walking Strategy could help in reducing pedestrian accidents at these and other locations in Brent.

There are many deterrents to walking ranging from street clutter (such as signs, guard rails and bollards), poor pavement condition and litter, to people's perceptions of safety. For some groups, such as the disabled, the old, pregnant women and parents with young children, these issues may act as obstacles.

Brent, along with other local authorities, TfL and the Greater London Authority (GLA), see increasing walking as a key means of reducing congestion, improving lifestyles and reducing pollution. Over half of Brent's adult population do not undertake sport or physical activity and a higher percentage of Brent's school children in reception and year 6 were obese when compared to the England average highlighting the need to encourage more active lifestyles that include walking.

TfL's 'Travel in London' report estimates there to be on average over 90 thousand potentially walkable trips per day in Brent – the sixth highest of all London boroughs. This takes into account both current and potential trips and trip lengths suggesting that promotion of walking in Brent and improvements to aid walking could have a large impact.

Any new infrastructure provided as part of the Strategy will be in accordance with the latest relevant standards. Consultation and consideration of equality implications will be undertaken for each individual scheme which will address the particular impacts on people of affected protected characteristics, and responses will be considered as part of the scheme to be delivered. As yet, there is no evidence to suggest any of the proposals within the Walking Strategy will have an adverse impact on any of the equality groups listed.

Sources:

- ONS 2011 Census estimates
- ONS 2015 mid-year estimates
- GLA interim 2015-based housing linked population projections
- TfL London Travel Demand Survey (three year average 2013/14 to 2015/16)
- TfL accident data
- Brent Council Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: Overview Report 2015/16
- TfL Travel in London: Report 9 (2016)

2. Who is affected by the proposal? Consider residents, staff and external stakeholders.

The Walking Strategy will aim to enhance the pedestrian environment through the proposals contained within it and will have an effect on everyone who lives, works and/or studies in Brent as well as those who visit the borough or pass through it. It will also affect businesses that operate in Brent as well as neighbouring boroughs. It is specifically geared to reducing barriers to walking and to making walking a more appealing and pleasant alternative.

3.1. Could the proposal impact on people in different ways because of their equality characteristics?

- Yes

The Walking Strategy is a borough-wide strategy and will therefore impact everyone. However the Strategy will affect people in different ways because of their equality characteristics. For example, a person with visual impairment may benefit more from the removal of street clutter whereas a young woman may benefit more from a perceived safer walking environment.

If you answered 'Yes' please indicate which equality characteristic(s) are impacted

- Age
- Disability
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Sex

3.2. Could the proposal have a disproportionate impact on some equality groups?

- Yes

If you answered 'Yes', please indicate which equality characteristic(s) are disproportionately impacted

- Age
- Disability
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Sex

Although the Walking Strategy covers the whole of Brent, there will be targeted actions and anticipated benefits for the above identified equality characteristics. For example, young people are over represented in accidents involving pedestrians when compared to this age group only making up the Borough average of 11.3 per cent of Brent's population (at mid-year 2015). Therefore, any schemes which specifically address local safety issues will have a disproportionate impact for young people of this age.

3.3. Would the proposal change or remove services used by vulnerable groups of people?

- No

3.4. Does the proposal relate to an area with known inequalities?

- Yes

The Walking Strategy covers the whole of Brent where there is considerable variation in equality across the borough. Brent itself is made up of 21 wards and 173 LSOAs (Lower Super Output Areas).

The indices of deprivation 2015 are the official measure of relative deprivation in England and are determined on a LSOA basis. From this a local authority rank is calculated. The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) combines all the indices of deprivation and is made up of seven measures. These are: income deprivation; employment deprivation; education, skills and training deprivation; health deprivation and disability; crime; barriers to housing and services; and the living environment.

Brent ranks 39th out of all English local authorities in terms of deprivation. Fourteen of Brent's LSOAs fall into the 10 per cent most deprived in England with six of these 14 found in Stonebridge ward (Brent's most deprived ward). Harlesden, Kilburn, and Willesden Green wards also contain LSOAs which are amongst the most deprived nationally. Only LSOAs in the north of the borough close to its border with Harrow and Barnet fare considerably better. No LSOAs in Brent are in the top 10 per cent least deprived nationally.

This indicates that the Walking Strategy relates to areas with known inequalities. The Strategy will benefit all LSOAs and wards in Brent.

3.5. Is the proposal likely to be sensitive or important for some people because of their equality characteristics?

- Yes

If you answered 'Yes', please indicate which equality characteristic(s) are impacted

- Age
- Disability
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Sex

The Walking Strategy is a borough-wide vision but is likely to be important for some people because of their equality characteristics. For example, older people who do not walk as much as they would like to because of a lack of rest places may find the Strategy important if it contains plans to introduce a number of new rest places in an area where they would walk.

3.6 Does the proposal relate to one of Brent's equality objectives?

- Yes

To ensure that local public services are responsive to different needs and treat users with dignity and respect.

Recommend this EA for Full Analysis?

Yes

Comments

A mixture of qualitative and quantitative data was used to inform this EA and the final draft strategy, including:

- Transport for London, (2015), *London Travel Demand Survey*
- Transport for London, (2016), *Travel in London Report 9*
- Transport for London, *Accident data*
- Office for National Statistics (2012), *2011 Census*
- Office for National Statistics, (2016), *2015 mid-year population estimates*
- Office for National Statistics, *Birth Summary Tables 2013 to present*
- Office for National Statistics, *Vital Statistics Tables 1991 to 2012*
- Greater London Authority, (2017), *Interim 2015-based housing-linked population projections*
- Brent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Overview Report: 2015/16
- Brent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Deprivation (2015) – presentation

Information which has been used in developing the Walking Strategy also includes:

- Brent Borough Plan 2015-2019
- Brent Long-Term Transport Strategy 2015-2035
- Mayor's Transport Strategy
- Outcomes of stakeholder and public engagement and consultation
- Internal conversations with the representatives of: Parking and Lighting; Housing; Highways and

Infrastructure; Safety and Travel Planning; and Public Health

- Information provided by WestTrans
- London Councils, (2012), *Review of the relevance of parking to the success of urban centres*
- Brent Council Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: Overview Report 2015/16
- Department for Health, (2011), *Physical activity guidelines for adults (19-64 years)*
- Transport for London, (2016), *Collisions and casualties on London's roads: Annual report 2015*
- Department for Transport, (2016), *Reported road casualties in Great Britain: 2015 annual report*

Rate this EA

N/A

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Impact Assessment Data

5. What effects could your policy have on different equality groups and on cohesion and good relations?

5.1 Age (select all that apply)

- Positive

Overall Brent's population is projected to rise by 8.2 per cent to some 350,600 residents by 2022 from just over 324 thousand residents in 2015. This increase however is not projected to be uniform across all ages meaning that those age groups which will see the largest rises are more likely to benefit from any proposals introduced as part of the Walking Strategy.

The older age groups, namely those aged 55 and over, are projected to see the largest increases over the period 2015 to 2022; on average a 17.8 per cent rise per age group (age 55-64, age 65-74, and age 75 and over).

Young people are over represented in accidents involving pedestrians. In the 36 months to December 2015, 18.5 per cent of accidents to those whose age was known were to young people aged between 10 and 19 years. This compares to this age group only making up 11.3 per cent of Brent's population at mid-year 2015.

Children age 15 and under make up one fifth of Brent's population. Although the number of children of this age is projected to rise by nearly eight per cent between 2015 and 2022, the number as a proportion of Brent's overall population is projected to remain stable.

All schemes that form part of the Walking Strategy will be subject to an equality assessment which will identify any outstanding barriers for groups with protected characteristics and ways in which these can be addressed.

Sources:

- ONS 2015 mid-year estimates
- GLA interim 2015-based housing linked population projections
- TfL accident data

5.2 Disability (select all that apply)

- Positive

The 2011 Census revealed that 5.34 per cent of Brent's population classify themselves as in bad or very bad health. For nearly seven per cent of residents, their day to day activities are limited a lot because of a long-term illness.

At ward level there is considerable variation with 6.9 per cent of Stonebridge ward residents classifying themselves as being in bad or very bad health compared to Northwick Park ward where this falls to just four per cent. When it comes to limiting long-term illness, 8.4 per cent of Stonebridge ward residents stated that their day to day activities are limited a lot compared to 5.5 per cent of Queens Park residents.

This highlights that the areas of Brent which have higher numbers of residents in poor health or with a limiting long-term illness are more likely to benefit from proposals in the Walking Strategy aimed at improving accessibility to walking and the walking environment.

All schemes that form part of the Walking Strategy will be subject to an equality assessment which will identify any outstanding barriers for groups with protected characteristics and ways in which these can be addressed. In particular, the schemes will consider the impact on the large spectrum of physical and non-physical disabilities and long-term health conditions.

Sources:

- ONS Census 2011; Table KS301EW

5.3 Gender identity and expression (select all that apply)

- Neutral

The Walking Strategy does not contain any measures which appear to have an impact on the 'Gender identity and expression' protected characteristic. Notwithstanding this, consultation will be undertaken for each project to ensure this on a case-by-case basis.

5.4 Marriage and civil partnership (select all that apply)

- Neutral

The Walking Strategy does not contain any measures which appear to have an impact on the 'Marriage and civil partnership' protected characteristic. Notwithstanding this, consultation will be undertaken for each project to ensure this on a case-by-case basis.

5.5 Pregnancy and maternity (select all that apply)

- Positive

In 2015 there were over 5,200 live births in Brent equating to some four per cent of all live births in Greater London. Although births have fallen slightly in recent years, they are still over 33 per cent higher than in 2001 (just over 3,900).

This rise in the number of births to women resident in Brent means a higher number of pregnant women and parents with dependent children resident in the borough who would see a positive impact from the implementation of a walking strategy. In particular, removal of street clutter and a more pleasant walking environment would be a positive effect of the Strategy.

All schemes, including those which are not directly aimed at improving accessibility for people within the pregnancy and maternity protected characteristic, will be subject to an equality assessment which will identify any outstanding barriers and ways in which they can be addressed.

Sources:

- ONS Birth Summary Tables 2013 to present
- ONS Vital Statistics Tables 1991 to 2012

5.6 Race (select all that apply)

- Positive

Brent ranked as the second most diverse local authority in England & Wales in the most recent Census estimates using Simpson's Diversity Index. Dollis Hill ward in Brent ranked as the most diverse ward in England & Wales on the same basis with a further nine of Brent's wards featuring in the top 50 most diverse.

In the 2011 Census, 18.6 per cent of residents classified themselves as Asian/Asian British: Indian, 18.0 per cent as White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British, and a further 14.3 per cent as White: Other White. It is projected that by 2022, these three ethnic groups will remain dominant in Brent but the largest increases are projected in the White: Other White, Asian/Asian British: Other Asian, and Arab groups; up 2.0 percentage points, 1.5 percentage points and 1.2 percentage points respectively when compared to 2011.

Data from the LTDS shows that Brent residents undertake considerably fewer walking trips on average per person per day than Outer London residents and Greater London residents regardless of ethnic group. Additionally, residents from mixed, other or Arab backgrounds undertake on average the most walking trips per person per day in both Greater London and Brent; 0.73 and 0.78 walking trips respectively. Given Brent's diversity, any measures to encourage walking would therefore be particularly positive for all ethnic groups but may disproportionately benefit those from mixed, other and Arab backgrounds who already walk more.

All schemes that form part of the Walking Strategy will be subject to an equality assessment which will identify any outstanding barriers and ways in which they can be addressed.

Sources:

- GLA Update CIS2012-04, 2011 Census Snapshot: Ethnic Diversity Indices
- GLA Update CIS2013-02, 2011 Census Snapshot: Ethnic Diversity Indices for wards
- ONS Census 2011; Table KS201EW
- GLA 2015-round trend-based ethnic group population projections (long-term trend)
- TfL London Travel Demand Survey (three year average 2013/14 to 2015/16)

5.7 Religion or belief (select all that apply)

- Neutral

The Walking Strategy does not contain any measures which appear to have an impact on the 'Religion or belief' protected characteristic. Notwithstanding this, consultation will be undertaken for each project to ensure this on a case-by-case basis.

5.8 Sex (select all that apply)

- Positive

The LTDS shows that female residents in Brent undertake more walking trips per person per day than their male counterparts; 0.59 versus 0.40. This rises to 0.84 walking trips per person per day for females for those who work or

go to school in Brent and 0.61 for males. These are a three year average covering the period 2013/14 to 2015/16.

Any improvements to the walking environment are therefore likely to particularly benefit girls and women who make up a greater proportion of pedestrians to begin with.

All schemes that form part of the Walking Strategy will be subject to an equality assessment which will identify any outstanding barriers and ways in which they can be addressed.

Sources:

- TfL London Travel Demand Survey (three year average 2013/14 to 2015/16)

5.9 Sexual orientation (select all that apply)

- Neutral

The Walking Strategy does not contain any measures which appear to have an impact on the 'Sexual orientation' protected characteristic. Notwithstanding this, consultation will be undertaken for each project to ensure this on a case-by-case basis.

5.10 Other (Socio-economic characteristics)

- Positive

Levels of economic activity vary amongst Brent residents (in this instance those aged 16-74) from less than 62 per cent in Stonebridge ward to nearly 78 per cent in Queen's Park ward. This therefore indicates that over a third of Stonebridge ward residents are economically inactive. This includes those who are retired, studying, looking after the family or home as well as those who are sick or disabled. A strategy to encourage and improve walking conditions would particularly benefit these groups by improving accessibility to walking, and in some instances, employment opportunities.

Brent ranks 39th out of all English local authorities in terms of deprivation. Fourteen of Brent's LSOAs fall into the 10 per cent most deprived in England with six of these 14 found in Stonebridge ward (Brent's most deprived ward). Walking is a free activity which would be promoted through the Walking Strategy and could help those in more deprived areas access services in other parts of the borough.

There were over 9,700 lone parent households in Brent at the time of the last Census and in 46 per cent of these households, the lone parent was not in employment. Increased options for these families (and others) to safe and clutter free walking routes is beneficial for both adults and children in terms of health as well as for accessing opportunities to employment, education and other key services.

Sources:

- ONS Census 2011; Table KS601EW to KS603EW
- Brent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Deprivation (2015) – presentation
- ONS Census 2011; Table KS107EW

6. Please provide a brief summary of any research or engagement initiatives that have been carried out to formulate your proposal.

What did you find out from consultation or data analysis?

Were the participants in any engagement initiatives representative of the people who will be affected by your proposal?

How did your findings and the wider evidence base inform the proposal?

Two sets of engagement/consultation events have been undertaken. The first public and stakeholder engagement was undertaken between August and October 2015, the results of which were used to shape the Walking Strategy. This engagement took the form of a questionnaire asking respondents a variety of questions on different aspects of walking. These included how frequently they walked by purpose, why they walk, the length of their walking trips, opinions on barriers to walking, what changes to the street environment would enable them to walk more and where improvements to walking infrastructure were needed. Key stakeholders were also written to as part of this engagement.

A second wave of consultation was undertaken between August and September 2016 and again between November and December 2016 on the draft Walking Strategy itself to give people the opportunity to comment on the objectives and actions proposed.

No one aged 15 or under completed the engagement questionnaire which is as expected. The older age groups were disproportionately represented in the responses received. In particular, for the first engagement exercise, over a quarter (25.7 per cent) of respondents were aged between 45 and 54 despite this age group only making up 16.1 per cent of Brent's actual population. For the second consultation, 25.6 per cent of respondents were aged between 55 and 64 compared to only 12.3 per cent of Brent's population. Those aged between 16 and 24 years were considerably underrepresented; on average 2.9 per cent of responses across both consultations compared to this age group accounting for 14.0 per cent of Brent's population.

When comparing the ethnicity of consultation respondents with Brent's residents, those of a White background (both White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British and White: Irish (including traveler/gypsy) are considerably overrepresented; on average half of all respondents across the two consultations compared to only 22.1 per cent of

Brent residents. The same applies to those of a Bangladeshi background; on average 8.8 per cent of respondents over both consultations compared to only 0.6 per cent of Brent's population.

It is acknowledged that as a whole the responses received are not proportionally representative of the demographic make-up of Brent. However, responses were received from all ethnic group categories and all ages (with the exception of those age 15 and under) and from both genders. In this sense the consultations can be considered to represent Brent's make-up.

Individual schemes proposed as part of the Walking Strategy will be informed by additional consultation and engagement with under-represented groups who are known to undertake significantly lower than average walking journeys. Comments received are considered in deciding whether or not to implement schemes, with or without amendments. Any potential adverse impact on the community would be identified at the scheme development/pre-implementation stage.

Comments and feedback received during the two consultation phases has been taken into account when carrying out this EA and finalizing the Walking Strategy. All feedback has been noted and has either resulted in amendments to the Walking Strategy or acknowledgement accompanied by reasoning as to why the Strategy will not be modified.

Sources:

- ONS 2015 mid-year population estimates
- ONS Census 2011; Table KS201EW

7. Could any of the impacts you have identified be unlawful under the Equality Act 2010?

- No

8. What actions will you take to enhance any potential positive impacts that you have identified?

Any schemes that come forward as part of the Walking Strategy will be in accordance with existing design standards which have been developed to meet the requirements of people with a range of disabilities (both physical and non-physical) and long-term health conditions, and include measures to improve accessibility.

The Mayor's 'Healthy Streets for London' vision and any associated documentation will also be taken into account to ensure that any potential positive impacts are enhanced.

Brent Council will continue to publicise improvements made to reduce or remove barriers to equality and will raise awareness of any outstanding equality issues within the community.

9. What actions will you take to remove or reduce any potential negative impacts that you have identified?

There are no negative impacts of the Walking Strategy identified by the equality analysis at this stage. However consultation will be undertaken for proposals on a case-by-case basis prior to implementation to ensure that any potential negative impacts are reduced or removed for all schemes.

10. Please explain the justification for any remaining negative impacts.

None of the actions listed within the Walking Strategy have any outstanding identified negative impacts.