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Task 2

Enfield Council Reflective Overview

Student name: Mihaita Marius David

Student ID: 2113993

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Lecturer name: Dr Nadeem Mirza

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Table of Contents

Enfield overview.....	3
London Borough of Enfield	3
Enfield London Borough Council.....	3
Reflective Overview	4
Principles.....	5
• Transparency and Openness:.....	5
• Clear objectives:.....	5
• Meaningful Participation:	5
• Inclusiveness and diversity:	5
• Collaboration and Partnership:.....	5
• Feedback and evaluation:	6
Standards	6
Environmental standards:.....	6
• Equality and diversity:.....	6
• Responsible use of public spaces:.....	6
• Hate speech and discrimination are not tolerated:.....	6
• Community involvement and participation:	7
• Anti-social behaviour:	7
Strategies	7
• Consultation:.....	7
• Participatory budgeting:	7
• Community events:.....	8
• Community Forums:.....	8
• Social media:	8
• Citizen Panels:	8
Conclusions	8
References:	10
Picture sources:.....	11
Video sources:.....	11

Enfield overview



Coat of arms



Council logo

London Borough of Enfield

Enfield is a borough in North London, England, with a population of about 329,601 people (Office for National Statistics, 2021). Enfield has a long history, dating back to Roman times (Smith, 2008) and being noted in the "Domesday Book," a survey of England commissioned by William the Conqueror in 1086 (Domesday Book, 1086).

It is well known for its green retail areas, parks and historical landmarks (we can mention here Enfield Palace, which was the home of Elizabeth I) (Gilbert, 2012). Enfield's economy is broad, with a mix of manufacturing, retail and service industries, home to a number of well-known corporations. It was also the site of one of the most iconic enterprises in British history: the Royal Small Arms Facility (RSAF), which produced the famous Lee-Enfield rifles (Enfield Council, n.d.).

Enfield London Borough Council

Enfield Council is a local government authority with the responsibility of providing services to residents and companies in the Enfield borough. The objective of the council is to create a "cleaner, greener, safer, and fairer Enfield" by delivering high-quality services and supporting economic growth and community involvement. Furthermore, the council works with local partners to solve social and economic issues such as poverty, unemployment, and inequality, and it engages in the community to encourage economic growth and improve the quality of life in the neighbourhood.

Enfield Council is governed by a council-manager system, which means that elected representatives define policy and make decisions, while a professional manager controls the council's day-to-day operations. The council is governed by a directly elected mayor and consists of 63 councillors elected every four years (Enfield Council, n.d.).

Reflective Overview

According to the initial mention of Enfield “Enefelde a settlement, recording 114 households. Of these, 57 were “villars” (villagers), 20 were “bordars” (smallholders), 30 were “cottars” (cottagers), six were slaves, and one was a priest” (Domesday Book, 1086). By adopting the concepts, norms, and techniques of community involvement, the route to today's London Borough was complicated and full of challenges. Enfield has used community engagement concepts, norms, and initiatives for decades.

In the 1970s, there was a rising realisation of the value of community participation in municipal decision-making and policy creation. Through public consultations and engagement initiatives, local governments have begun to involve the community in planning and decision-making processes (Bovaird & Loeffler, 2012).

With the advent of various community initiatives and programmes in Enfield in the 1980s, there was an increased emphasis on community engagement and empowerment (Poppo, 2015). The establishment of community development trusts was one of the main projects, with the goal of empowering local communities and providing them with the tools and support they required to identify and address their needs (Bovaird & Loeffler, 2012).

Partnership working and collaborative governance ideas were more common in Enfield in the 1990s, with local government working closely with the community and other stakeholders to design and implement policies and programmes (Poppo, 2015). The local government also built many methods for community involvement, such as community forums and panels, to guarantee that the thoughts and opinions of local residents were considered in decision-making processes (Bovaird & Loeffler, 2012).

Enfield Borough wants to be honest about its decision-making processes and to involve residents in crucial choices that affect their lives. This includes providing clear and accessible information on policies and programmes, as well as collecting feedback and input from people of the community. Unfortunately, this is not done appropriately, resulting in a significant lack of transparency. Enfield Council, according to the local blog Better Homes Enfield (2022), does not publish public comments on planning applications. As a result, the public is uncertain whether Council fairly recorded the number of comments received or if it appropriately reviewed and handled the substantial planning concerns raised. Furthermore, according to a survey conducted by the Local Government Association (2017), Enfield was one of the worst-performing councils in terms of transparency, getting only 28% in a transparency assessment. The report emphasised the importance of Enfield improving its transparency by sharing information about council decisions, meetings, and spending.

Another issue arises from the fact that the Enfield community is multicultural; unfortunately, there are incidents between members of the community. Despite the Council's zero-tolerance policy for hate speech and discrimination, hatred speech and discrimination have been reported in the Enfield community, according to an article in the Enfield Independent (2021).

Principles

- **Transparency and Openness:** Enfield Council is committed to being open and transparent in all its decision-making processes in order to foster trust and accountability among residents (Borland, 2017). For example, the council provides residents with timely and accessible information about new initiatives, plans, and projects via its website, social media such as Twitter and Facebook, or promotional videos on You Tube (e.g. [Video 1](#), [Video 2](#)).
- **Clear objectives:** Enfield Council makes certain that its community involvement programmes have clear objectives that are connected with its strategic interests. The Council's 2021-2025 Corporate Plan, for example, includes a pledge to "deliver a new standard of community engagement that is inclusive, transparent, and accountable" (Enfield Council, 2021).
- **Meaningful Participation:** Enfield Council strives to give citizens and communities the opportunity to engage in decision-making processes that affect them. For example, the Council's Local Plan consultation included substantial involvement with local residents, such as public forums and workshops, online surveys, and social media campaigns (Enfield Council, 2019).
- **Inclusiveness and diversity:** Enfield Council recognises the value of inclusion and diversity in boosting community involvement (McGovern & Paterson, 2020). The board works with a variety of stakeholders from various backgrounds and experiences to ensure that all perspectives are heard. For example, the council engages with minority groups, youth councils, and disabled citizens to ensure that their opinions and needs are taken into account throughout decision-making procedures. Enfield Council strives to give everyone a voice and representation in decision-making processes. The council actively attempts to engage with hard-to-reach communities and offers non-English speakers translation services. The Enfield Refugee Welcome Board, for example, was founded by the council to assist refugees and asylum seekers in the local community (Enfield Council, 2021).
- **Collaboration and Partnership:** According to Enfield Council, collaboration and partnership are crucial for effective community participation (Barnes & Newman, 2020). The

council collaborates with local businesses, community groups, and other stakeholders to develop community-focused programmes. For example, the council collaborates with local businesses to give locals with job and training possibilities. Enfield Council has collaborated with local citizens and community organisations to create a Black History Month event calendar. The council provided financing and logistical support for the events, but the community took the lead in organising and publicising them.

- Feedback and evaluation: Enfield Council prioritises feedback and evaluation in order to continuously enhance its community engagement programmes (McGovern & Paterson, 2020). The council solicits feedback from citizens on their experiences on a regular basis and uses this feedback to strengthen its engagement efforts. For example, to seek feedback on its community participation activities, the council conducts surveys and focus groups.

Standards

Environmental standards: Enfield Council has developed a number of efforts to keep the borough's environmental standards high, such as recycling programmes, green space preservation, and garbage management. According to the Enfield Independent (2023), "Enfield Council has introduced new environmental standards for local businesses to help reduce pollution and waste". Enfield Council was also recognised for its efforts to combat climate change and promote environmentally friendly living. Enfield Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2040 (Enfield Council, 2019).

- Equality and diversity: Enfield Council is committed to promoting equality and diversity in all parts of its operations. This is reflected in the council's Equality and Diversity Policy, which states the council's commitment to "eliminating prejudice, encouraging diversity, and promoting good relations between persons from different origins". The Council also collaborates with local community groups to foster understanding and celebrate Enfield's diverse population (Enfield Council, 2021).
- Responsible use of public spaces: Enfield Council has established laws for the usage of public places such as parks, streets, and buildings. These rules include maintaining the premises clean and tidy, not causing property damage, and not utilising them for illegal or anti-social purposes (Enfield Council, n.d.).
- Hate speech and discrimination are not tolerated: Enfield Council has a zero-tolerance policy for hate speech and discrimination. Online bullying, racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia are examples. Hate speech or discrimination will be investigated and appropriate action will be taken (Enfield Council, n.d.).

- **Community involvement and participation:** Enfield Council encourages residents to participate in community activities and decision-making processes. Attending public meetings, joining local groups, and working for community initiatives are all examples of this (Enfield Council, n.d.).
- **Housing Standards:** Enfield Council has established minimum housing standards to guarantee that all residents have access to safe and decent housing. This includes room size, ventilation, and heating rules. "All housing provided by the council must meet the minimum standards set out in the Housing Act 2004," according to Enfield Council (2021). Enfield Council has recently made significant investments in regeneration projects in order to improve the borough's infrastructure and create new employment and housing. The Meridian Water initiative, worth £6 billion, promises to transform a 210-acre site into a new community with 10,000 new homes, retail, offices, and leisure facilities; Enfield Council is leading the initiative, which is sponsored by the Greater London Authority and the UK government. (BBC News, 2021)
- **Anti-social behaviour:** Enfield Council has a zero tolerance policy for anti-social behaviour, which includes vandalism, graffiti, and verbal abuse. Those detected engaged in such behaviour may be issued a Community Protection Notice, which requires them to stop or face legal repercussions.

Strategies

- **Consultation:** Enfield Council uses consultation as a significant technique to engage with the community. The council solicits comments from residents on a variety of issues, including development proposals, service provision, and policy changes. Residents can view and reply to consultations online using the council's consultation portal. Enfield Council, for example, spoke with locals in 2021 on suggestions to implement a low-traffic neighbourhood project in the borough's Bowes area. The Council interacted with local citizens through public meetings, online polls, and social media (Enfield Council, 2021).
- **Participatory budgeting:** Another approach employed by Enfield Council to engage with the community is participatory budgeting. Giving local residents a say in how public money are spent is part of this. In 2020, the council started a participatory budgeting exercise, giving citizens the opportunity to vote on how to spend £100,000 on local initiatives. In another case, the council solicited bids for community-benefiting initiatives such as playground improvements, community gardens, and street art installations. A panel of local people and council officers assessed the submissions, and the final designs were chosen by a public vote (Enfield Council, 2020).

- **Community events:** Enfield Council also interacts with the community through a variety of events such as festivals, markets, and community fairs. Residents can meet council officers, ask questions, and provide feedback at these events. Enfield Council, for example, organised a series of community activities in 2021 to highlight the borough's variety and culture. A Caribbean funfair, a Turkish festival and a Polish day were among the festivities (Enfield Council, 2021).
- **Community Forums:** Enfield Council has established a variety of Community Forums to provide locals with a venue to gather and discuss problems that impact them. These discussions are frequently themed, and council representatives and other stakeholders attend. The "Enfield Residents' Priority Forum", for example, was established to allow residents to share their neighbourhood priorities and collaborate with the council to develop solutions to local issues; another example is the Enfield Safer Neighbourhood Board, a forum where residents can meet with local police officers and councillors to discuss crime and safety issues in their neighbourhoods (Enfield Council, n.d.).
- **Social media:** Another important approach utilised by Enfield Council to communicate with the community is social media. Social media channels such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram are used by the council to publish news and updates, promote events, and solicit comments from citizens. Enfield Council, for example, utilised Twitter in 2021 to solicit comment from locals on planned alterations to a local bus route; the Council tweeted a link to the poll and encouraged locals to submit feedback on the idea.
- **Citizen Panels:** Enfield municipal has established a variety of Citizen Panels, which are comprised of residents who have volunteered to provide feedback and insight on municipal activities. These panels are frequently used to review new policies or programmes, and their input is included when choices are made. For example, Enfield Council, established a citizens' group in 2022 to provide feedback on its climate change action plan, which intended to lower the borough's carbon footprint and promote sustainable development.

Conclusions

My research on Enfield council has revealed that nothing is perfect, that things might be more effectively, but that they are on the right direction. I feel that transparency in communication with community members, particularly representatives of minorities, must be strengthened in order to avoid hateful and discriminatory comments and actions and to urge neighbours to be tolerant and supportive of one another. Another issue raised above is the

lack of transparency in the development of new projects, which could be easily remedied by publishing them on time and inviting community people to consultations.

In terms of strategy, I believe they should put more work into it because stakeholders' well-being is dependent on how successfully the future is planned. The Meridian Water project alone is unlikely to tackle the housing situation; the Council should also consider alternatives for people who do not want to live in an apartment tower and prefer to live in a house with a garden. For example, I prefer a house with a garden to a block of apartments since they make me feel odd.

At the same time, more should be invested in a community's most important asset, "children"; they are the future, the ones who will help us and evolve the community. This can be accomplished by involving the council and the community in identifying and assisting underprivileged families while also building additional schools.

To oppose hateful and discriminatory comments and behaviours, I believe that, in addition to transparency in dialogue with minorities, many more local events and workshops would be beneficial. They might happen on many occasions, and with good advertising, they could have the full support of the entire community.

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