Cambridge Centre for Housing & Planning Research

Affordable housing products in Brent and their affordability to target client groups

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Executive Summary and conclusions

This project was commissioned by LB Brent in order to enable the Council to better understand the relationship between the various 'affordable' housing products currently available, the 'customer base' for whom these products might actually be affordable, the income profile of different household types in Brent, and the sections of the population to whom the different 'affordable' products are suitable.

The Council's objective was to be able to specify the products that will best meet identified housing need in the Borough, and to guide developers towards the optimum mix of 'affordable' housing products on developments.

This report estimates the affordability of rents in Brent by comparing current and proposed rents, for different types of housing 'product', with the gross household incomes in Brent for a range of household types.

This report uses two definitions of 'affordability':

- The first is the minimum income that each household type would need in order to be able to afford social rents, Affordable Rents or London Living Rents without needing support from Housing Benefit.
- The second is the minimum income that each household type would need to afford discounted market rents, at 60%, 70% or 80% of open market rents, for rent to be less than 33% of gross household income.

The project has produced estimates of the income profile for seven different household types in Brent. These estimates are derived by modeling from national level data, adjusted for the known characteristics of the population in Brent.

The project has also produced estimates of the gross incomes of households in social housing, based upon the limited coverage of lettings available from CORE.

Affordability for all households in Brent

The affordability of housing costs for individual household types set out in the detailed figures in the body of the report are summarized below. As in the detailed figures, the percentages of households which cannot afford different rent levels are a percentage of the total estimated number of working households of that household type in Brent.

Single people (1 bedroom property)

- 21% of single people cannot afford the average 1 bed LB Brent social rent @ £100.11 pw without housing benefit
- 50% of single people cannot afford the LHA rent in NW London @ £191.38 pw without housing benefit
- 53% of single people cannot afford the average 1 bed Affordable Rent @ £196.83 without housing benefit
- 42% of single people cannot afford 60% of open market 1 bed rents in the north of the Borough @ £145 pw and 53% cannot afford 60% rents in the south of the Borough @ £172 pw.

Couple without children (1 bedroom property)

- 12% of couples without children cannot afford the average 1 bed LB Brent social rent @ £100.11 pw without housing benefit
- 25% of couples without children cannot afford the LHA rent in NW London @ £191.38 pw without housing benefit
- 27% of couples without children cannot afford the average 1 bed Affordable Rent @ £196.38 pw without housing benefit
- 19% of couples without children cannot afford 60% of open market 1 bed rents in the north of the Borough @ £145 pw and 23% cannot afford 60% rents in the south of the Borough @ £172 pw.

Couple with one child (2 bedroom property)

- 25% of couples with one child cannot afford the average 2 bed LB Brent social rent @ £113.90 pw without housing benefit
- 56% of couples with one child cannot afford the LHA 2 bed rent in NW London @ £242.33 pw without housing benefit
- 56% of couples with one child cannot afford the average 2 bed Affordable Rent @ £243.21 pw without housing benefit
- 39% of couples with one child cannot afford 60% of open market 2 bed rents in the north of the Borough @ £183 pw and 45% cannot afford 60% rents in the south of the Borough @ £208 pw.

Couple with 2 children (3 bedroom property)

- 44% of couples with two children cannot afford the average 3 bed LB Brent social rent @ £125.86 pw without housing benefit
- 71% of couples with two children cannot afford the LHA 3 bed rent in NW London @ £303 without housing benefit
- 57% of couples with two children cannot afford the average 3 bed Affordable Rent @ £191.38 pw without housing benefit
- 50% of couples with two children cannot afford 60% of open market 3 bed rents in the north of the Borough @ £222 pw and 59% cannot afford 60% rents in the south of the Borough @ £260 pw

Lone parent with one child (2 bedroom property)

- 66% of lone parents with one child cannot afford the average 2 bed LB Brent social rent @ £113.90 pw without housing benefit
- 91% of lone parents with one child cannot afford the LHA 2 bed rent in NW London
 @ £242.33 pw without housing benefit
- 91% of lone parents with one child cannot afford the average 2 bed Affordable Rent
 @ £243.21 pw without housing benefit
- 85% of lone parents with one child cannot afford 60% of open market 2 bed rents in the north of the Borough @ £183 pw and 87% cannot afford 60% rents in the south of the Borough @ £208 pw

Lone parent with 2 children (3 bedroom property)

• 78% of lone parents with two children cannot afford the average 3 bed LB Brent social rent @ £125.86 pw without housing benefit

- 97% of lone parents with two children cannot afford the LHA 3 bed rent in NW London @ £303 pw without housing benefit
- 92% of lone parents with two children cannot afford the average 3 bed Affordable Rent @ £191.38 pw without housing benefit
- 90% of lone parents with two children cannot afford 60% of open market 3 bed rents in the north of the Borough @ £222 pw and 94% cannot afford 60% rents in the south of the Borough @ £260 pw

Affordability for social tenants in Brent

- Over half of all single people and couples without children cannot afford LB Brent social rents without support from housing benefit.
- Around three quarters of all single people and couples without children cannot afford housing association social rents without support from housing benefit.
- Fewer than one in four single people or couples could afford the London Living rent in NW London without support from housing benefit.
- Over 90% of single people and couples without children cannot afford Affordable Rents without support from housing benefit.
- Over 90% of couples or lone parents with two children cannot afford LB Brent social rents, and no family with two children (whether couple or lone parent) can afford any rent that is more expensive than LB Brent social rents.

Conclusions

- 1. Social rents are already too high: over half of current working single people or couples allocated social housing cannot afford LB Brent rents for 1 bedroom flats, and 90% of families with 2 children cannot afford the rent for a 3 bed property.
- The £20-£25 per week difference between LB Brent social rents and RP social rents increases the proportion of working single people and couples without children who cannot afford social rents from 55%-60% in LB Brent 1 bed properties to 70%-76% in RP 1 bed properties (and no family with two children can afford the RP 3 bed social rent).
- 3. As a result of the 'damping' of social rents and London Living Rents in order to reduce the rents of family dwellings, rents for family dwellings set at a fixed percentage of open market rents will be significantly more expensive than the rents of 1 bedroom properties, where social rents (and London Living Rents) are similar to rents at 60% of open market prices.
- 4. If properties with rents set at either the London Living Rent or at 60% of open market rents are let to households who can afford such rents without housing benefit, then there will be a significant gap between these rents and social rents, but with no prospects of additional supply to meet the demand from households earning more than the typical tenant in social housing but who cannot afford either London Living Rents or 60% of open market rents.
- 5. Given the current financing constraints, it appears that there is an unenviable choice between either producing a very small number of units to be let at social rents (or less) or maximizing the number of units produced and accepting that the vast majority of tenants in such properties will be in receipt of housing benefit.

Introduction

This project was commissioned by LB Brent in order to enable the Council to better understand the relationship between the various 'affordable' housing products currently available, the 'customer base' for whom these products might actually be affordable, the income profile of different household types in Brent, and the sections of the population to whom the different 'affordable' products are suitable.

The Council's objective was to be able to specify the products that will best meet identified housing need in the Borough, and to guide developers towards the optimum mix of 'affordable' housing products on developments.

The objectives of the project are:

- To produce a comprehensive analysis of the different types of 'affordable' housing product currently available, the income criteria (if any) specified for each product, and the target audience for whom each product might be regarded as affordable, having regard to any welfare benefits available and to the residual income available to households after their housing costs (rent or mortgage) have been met.
- To produce income profiles for a range of household types in Brent, to identify which 'affordable' housing products are affordable to which segments of the income profiles, and to assess which 'affordable housing products are suited to meeting identified housing need in the Borough.

The report is structured as follows:

- An outline of the methodology used to estimate household incomes
- A series of figures giving estimated household incomes for seven household types
- Estimates of incomes of social tenants from CORE data
- Affordability in social renting and Housing Benefit
- A series of figures giving estimates of affordability for six household types
- Discounted Market Rents and affordability
- A series of figures giving estimates of affordability for six household types
- Affordability in Shared Ownership
- A series of figures giving estimates of affordability for six household types
- Appendix: Local Housing Allowances and London Living Rents

Modelling incomes at the local authority level

There is no reliable source of data on household incomes at the geographic level of individual local authorities.

Estimates therefore have to be produced by modelling from the results of national level surveys, whose sample sizes are insufficient to draw any statistically sound conclusions at geographies as small as those of local authorities (and sometimes even at the regional level).

The methodology developed by the Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research (CCHPR) is based upon the methods used by previous academic work on income modelling.

The model used in this project uses the Family Resources Survey (FRS), which measures total household income in detail, considering income from sources including benefits, pensions and investments, as well as earnings. The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is used to supplement data on earnings, given its larger sample size, although ASHE measures earnings at the level of the individual rather than that of the household.

The modelling produces income estimates, for households in which the Household Representative Person (HRP) or their partner is in employment, and also for households wholly dependent upon benefits. The numbers of households of each type are modelled to be consistent with the population structure of the local authority area, derived from Census data and updated by government estimates of subsequent changes in household numbers.

The income estimates presented in this report are for households in which the Household Representative Person is aged 18-64, and the HRP or their partner is in employment. Incomes include earnings from employment and any non means tested benefits (primarily Child Benefit) are shown in £10 per week bands as annual incomes.

Seven types of households are shown:

- Single persons
- Couple without children
- Couple with 1 child
- Couple with 2 children
- Couple with 3 children
- Lone parent with 1 child
- Lone parent with 2 children

In the figures below, the scale of annual incomes is truncated at £80,000 per annum for clarity: there is a long tail of incomes, up to £156,000 per annum which are not relevant to problems of affordability but their inclusion would make the figures unreadable.

Note that the vertical scale in each figure is different, reflecting different numbers of households in each household type.















The incomes of social housing tenants

Analysis of lettings data from CORE

The only data on the incomes of tenants in social housing is from the COntinous REcording (CORE) system which records data on lettings. This may understate the incomes of all tenants, if obtaining a secure home in social housing is a factor in obtaining better paid employment in future years.

The project analysed data from CORE system for General Needs (GN) lettings in both social rent and affordable rent properties, together with evidence from the Sales logs.

CORE records whether any household member is in work, and also the tenant (or tenant and partner) net weekly income from employment, pensions and other benefits, but excluding housing benefit, child benefit and council tax support. The total net weekly income is entered as a single figure.

The income figures are therefore not directly comparable to the CCHPR household income estimates.

The table below shows that total lettings in Brent appear to be under recorded, and that income data is only recorded for around one third of lettings in social rent properties and for only around two thirds of lettings in affordable properties.

			CORE da	ta 2013/14 to	2015/16			
		Total		ether or not king	Of who	me data		
		Total number of CORE GN lettings	No working member		No working member	At least 1 working member	Subtotal	% of total CORE lettings
	2015/16	346	165	181	109	124	233	67.34
Affordable rent	2014/15	200	118	82	76	65	141	70.50
	2013/14	154	111	42	58	24	82	53.25
	2015/16	496	223	273	66	93	159	32.06
Social rent	2014/15	533	252	281	97	129	226	42.40
	2013/14	511	383	128	101	71	172	33.66

The figures below show the numbers of lettings, by weekly net income, and by whether or not the household had a working member.

The first two figures suggest that there is little evidence of any systematic difference in whether lettings in social or affordable rented properties are skewed towards households in or out of work.





The third figure compares lettings to households with a working member in social rent properties compared to affordable rent properties. If anything, there appear to be higher numbers of lettings to households with higher incomes in social rent properties.

This suggests that allocations in affordable rent properties are being directed towards households with lower incomes (in effect, accepting that these households are likely to be eligible for housing benefit, and therefore unlikely to gain from the lower rents in social rent properties).



The figure below shows the cumulative % of incomes among all social housing lettings over the three years 2013/14 to 2015/16 for which incomes were recorded in CORE.

The figure shows that incomes among social tenants are very low: almost all incomes (98.4%) were less than the median household income in Brent of £32,140 (and a mean income of £39,630) in 2012/13 (the latest figures that are available from the GLA Household Income Estimates¹). In 2012/13, Stonebridge Ward had the lowest mean income of any ward in London, at £32,250.

The figure shows that the median income for working households entering social housing was £16,120, or almost exactly half the overall median income in Brent.

¹ <u>https://data.london.gov.uk/apps_and_analysis/gla-household-income-estimates/</u>



The figure below shows the cumulative % of incomes of each of the four household types of working age in the CORE dataset.



The figure shows the income levels at which two thirds of social tenants have a lower income.

Allocatio	ns to working household	ls (CORE data	a): % able to	afford rent wi	thout Housir	ng Benefit
		Social rent		London Living Rent	Affordable Rent	60% Market Rent
		LB Brent	RP	NW London	RP	North Brent
single	Income required to afford rent without HB	£14,560	£17,160	£19,760	£26,000	£22,592
person	% of CORE allocations with lower incomes	55%	70%	85%	92%	90%
Couple, no	Income required to afford rent without HB	£17,680	£20,280	£23,400	£29,640	£22,592
children	% of CORE allocations with lower incomes	60%	76%	84%	92%	85%
Couple with	Income required to afford rent without HB	£28,600	£34,320	£37,440	£39,000	£34,564
2 children	% of CORE allocations with lower incomes	92%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Lone parent with 2	Income required to afford rent without HB	£23,400	£31,200	£35,360	£37,440	£34,564
children	% of CORE allocations with lower incomes	90%	100%	100%	100%	100%

The table below shows the income required in order for a household to afford the average rent, for the appropriate bedsize of property, without requiring support from Housing Benefit, together with the percentage of lettings to working households who have an income less than that figure.

Note: Couple and lone parent with 2 children are analysed for the purpose of Housing Benefit calculations as typical of CORE categories of families with children.

The table suggests that allocations to working households in social housing are largely to households on low incomes.

- Over half of all single people and couples without children cannot afford LB Brent social rents without support from housing benefit.
- Around three quarters of all single people and couples without children cannot afford housing association social rents without support from housing benefit.
- Fewer than one in four single people or couples could afford the London Living rent in NW London without support from housing benefit.
- Over 90% of single people and couples without children cannot afford Affordable Rents without support from housing benefit.
- Over 90% of couples or lone parents with two children cannot afford LB Brent social rents, and no family with two children (whether couple or lone parent) can afford any rent that is more expensive than LB Brent social rents.

Rents and affordability

This report analyses the affordability of rents set in the social housing sector, including the London Living Rent, by the income that a household requires in order to be able to afford the rent without the need for support from Housing Benefit.

The affordability of rents set at a discount to market rents is assessed by the rent at which a household would be spending 33% or less of its income on rent.

The Housing Benefit system

For households with at least one working member, the housing benefit system provides support for rent payments (including any eligible service charges). If the household's income is less than the household's 'applicable amount', then the full rent is paid (but only up to the Local Housing Allowance for tenants renting in the private sector). If the household's income is more than the 'applicable amount', then housing benefit is reduced by 65% of the excess of income over the 'applicable amount'.

The 'applicable amount' is calculated by adding together the relevant personal allowances, and any relevant premiums. For most working households, the personal allowances for 2017/18 are:

- For a single person aged between 25 and pension age: £73.10
- For a lone parent aged between 18 and pension age: £73.10
- For a couple where at least one is aged between 18 and pension age: £114.85
- For the first (and second) dependent child aged under 20: £66.90 each

The personal allowances for those aged over the pension age are significantly higher, and therefore provide greater support for any household where the claimant or their partner is working beyond the pension age.

In addition to the personal allowances, there is a range of premiums awarded primarily for varying degrees of disability and for carers.

Some elements of income are then disregarded. These include weekly earnings disregards of £5 for single people, £10 for couples and £25 for lone parents. Child benefit payments are disregarded, and there is a wide range of other disregards for specific circumstances.

Deductions are then made from the applicable amount if there are any non-dependent adults in the household. These range from £14.80 per week for those over 25 and on IS or JSA, or earning less than £136 per week, to £95.45 per week for those earning £430 or more (at the Minimum Wage of £7.50 for a 37.5 hour week, or £281.25, the deduction would be £76.35).

The result of the housing benefit system is that support is closely tailored to the specific needs of the household, depending upon its characteristics. At any particular rent for a property, the amount of housing benefit awarded will therefore vary widely according to the characteristics of the tenant.

The calculations in this report have assumed as standard a set of characteristics as possible between different household types, in order to make comparisons at different levels of rents and between different household types possible.

The assumptions are:

- That the claimant is aged 34, and works for 39 hours per week.
- That in couples the claimant's partner is also aged 34 but does not work.
- That in households with children, the minimum number of children, taking account of age and gender, are assumed which dictate the Bedroom Standard (so that one child will dictate a 2 bed property, but 2 children aged over 10 and of opposite genders would dictate a 3 bed property).
- That the household does not quality for any premiums or for any disregards other than child benefit, and that no children are aged over 16 (in order to avoid non-dependent deductions).

(In the case of single people, the assumption of a 39 hour working week is reduced in the case of the average local authority rent of £100.11, where housing benefit becomes nil when an income of £14,560 is reached, which occurs when working 37.5 hours at the Minimum Wage.)

The assumption that there is only one earner in couple households makes comparison with single people or lone parents simpler, but also understates the likely net (after tax and NI) incomes for couples. For example, a single earner on £60,000 per annum (and therefore paying higher rate tax on income above £45,000) will have a monthly net income of £3,548, but a couple with two earners, each on the basic rate of tax, will have a net monthly income of £3,945, or £4,7,64 more per annum (and will therefore remain on housing benefit at a higher rent than the single earner couple). It is likely that a high proportion of couples in need of affordable housing will have two lower paid earners rather than one much higher paid.

The effect of the housing benefit system upon the affordability of rents is shown in the table below. This shows the same 3 bed house, with the average social rent of £125 per week, but occupied by three different families: a single parent with 2 children, a couple with 2 children, and a couple with 3 children.

- The single parent with 2 children will no longer be eligible for housing benefit if her income exceeds £23,400 per annum
- The couple with 2 children will no longer be eligible for housing benefit if their income exceeds £28,600 per annum
- The couple with 3 children will no longer be eligible for housing benefit if their income exceeds £31,200 per annum

If the rent of the property is set at £125.86 per week, then over three quarters of single parents, and two thirds of couples with 3 children, will be unable to afford the rent, even though a majority of couples with 2 children would be able to do so.

3 bed	3 bed property, 3 different households								
3 bed	Weekly rent	£125.86							
(Single parent, 2	Income required to afford rent without HB	£23,400							
children)	% of households unable to afford rent without HB	78%							
3 bed	Weekly rent	£125.86							
(Couple, 2 children)	Income required to afford rent without HB	£28,600							
childreny	% of households unable to afford rent without HB	44%							
2 bod	Weekly rent	£125.86							
3 bed (Couple, 3 children)	Income required to afford rent without HB	£31,200							
cinicitetty	% of households unable to afford rent without HB	65%							

Rents and affordability

The existing pattern of rents by bedsize for LB Brent and for the Registered Provider (RP) stock in Brent is set out in the table below, together with the lowest and highest values for the London Living Rent for each bedsize of property in Brent.

	Average rents and service charges in social housing, by bedsize and landlord type										
			Bedsit	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	6 bed		
	Social rent	Number	420	2448	2503	1984	413	60	9		
		Average rent	£87.49	£100.11	£113.90	£125.86	£136.57	£146.91	£158.55		
		Of which, number with service charge									
B Brent		Average service charge									
to brent	Affordable rent	Number	0	0	26	6	1	0	0		
		Average rent	n/a	n/a	£248.45	£291.69	£350.77	n/a	n/a		
		Of which, number with service charge									
		Average service charge									
	Social rent	Number	93	2993	4877	2937	647	102	7		
		Average rent	£99.13	£110.12	£126.14	£144.15	£160.55	£174.21	£153.12		
		Of which, number with service charge	45	2260	3575	1800	450	84	2		
		Average service charge	13.18	10.86	11.10	8.12	6.35	3.91	4.86		
Registered providers	Affordable rent	Number	0	329	488	122	24	0	2		
		Average rent	n/a	£187.00	£227.67	£176.86	£182.80	n/a	£219.02		
		Of which, number with service charge	0	91	157	1	0	0	2		
		Average service charge	n/a	£9.83	£15.54	£14.52	n/a	n/a	£0.63		
ondon		Lowest ward value		£144.00	£160.00	£176.00	£192.00	£208.00	£224.00		
iving Rent		Highest ward value		£216.00	£240.00	£264.00	£288.00	£312.00	£336.00		

The table shows both the rent net of any service charges eligible for housing benefit, the number of properties subject to service charges, and the cost of service charges averaged across the stock subject to service charges.

The table below then shows the gross income required by each household type to be ineligible for housing benefit at both the average net and gross rents for that bedsize of property. This is defined as the £10 per week / £520 per annum income band that is immediately above the highest income band in which the household would still be eligible for support from housing benefit.

		Socia	l rent	London Li	ving Rent	Affordable rent	Local Housin	g Allowance
		LA (Borough wide)	RP (Borough wide)	Average in NW London BRMA	Average in Inner N London BRMA	RP (Borough wide)	NW London BRMA	Inner N London BRMA
	Weekly rent	£100.11	£120.98	£144.00	£216.00	£196.83	£191.38	£260.64
1 bed (Single person)	Income required to afford rent without HB % of households unable	£14,560	£17,160	£19,760	£28,080	£26,000	£25,480	£33,280
	to afford rent without HB	21%	28%	36%	56%	52%	50%	68%
1 bed	Weekly rent	£100.11	£120.98	£144.00	£216.00	£196.83	£191.38	£260.64
(Couple, no children)	Income required to afford rent without HB	£17,680	£20,280	£23,400	£31,720	£29,640	£28,600	£36,920
ennareny	% of households unable to afford rent without HB	12%	16%	19%	30%	27%	25%	38%
2 bed	Weekly rent	£113.90	£137.24	£160.00	£240.00	£243.21	£242.33	£302.33
(single parent, 1	Income required to afford rent without HB	£17,160	£23,920	£28,080	£37,440	£37,960	£37,960	£44,720
child)	% of households unable to afford rent without HB	66%	78%	84%	90%	91%	91%	95%
	Weekly rent	£113.90	£137.24	£160.00	£240.00	£243.21	£242.33	£302.33
2 bed (Couple, 1	Income required to afford rent without HB	£22,360	£27,560	£30,160	£39,520	£40,040	£40,040	£47,320
child)	% of households unable to afford rent without HB	25%	37%	42%	55%	56%	56%	62%
3 bed	Weekly rent	£125.86	£152.27	£176.00	£264.00	£191.38	£303.00	£354.46
(Single parent, 2	Income required to afford rent without HB	£28,600	£31,200	£35,360	£45,760	£37,440	£50,960	£58,240
children)	% of households unable to afford rent without HB	84%	89%	91%	96%	92%	97%	97%
2 4 - 4	Weekly rent	£125.86	£152.27	£176.00	£264.00	£191.38	£303.00	£354.46
3 bed (Couple, 2	Income required to afford rent without HB	£33,800	£34,320	£37,440	£47,840	£39,000	£53,560	£60,320
children)	% of households unable to afford rent without HB	49%	50%	55%	67%	57%	71%	77%
	Weekly rent	£136.57	£166.90	£192.00	£288.00	£182.80	£374.40	£417.02
4 bed (Couple, 4 children)	Income required to afford rent without HB	£31,200	£39,000	£45,240	£57,720	£42,640	£68,120	£72,800
,	% of households unable to afford rent without HB	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data
- 1 . 1	Weekly rent	£146.91	£178.12	£208.00	£312.00	n/a	£374.40	£417.02
5 bed (Couple, 6 children)	Income required to afford rent without HB	£45,240	£59,280	£64,480	£78,520	n/a	£87,360	£93,080
erindi erij	% of households unable to afford rent without HB	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data
6 bed	Weekly rent	£158.55	£157.98	£224.00	£336.00	£219.65	£374.40	£417.02
6 bed (Couple, 9 children)	Income required to afford rent without HB	£62,400	£63,400	£84,240	£99,840	£83,720	£105,040	£111,280
,	% of households unable to afford rent without HB	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data

The household types have been standardised in order to make the housing benefit calculations compatible. Therefore, in each household there is only one worker, aged 34, who works a 39 hour week. In couple households, the partner is also 34 and does not work. The number of children in each household type is the minimum number, and combination of age and gender, to qualify for each bedsize at the Bedroom Standard. All children are assumed to be under 16, in order to avoid non-dependent deductions.

In the extreme, this will produce unlikely households (to qualify for a 6 bed property, the couple would require 9 children, all under the age of 16), but the housing benefit calculations are all on the same basis.

The incomes at which each household type escapes from housing benefit at each rent type (social, affordable and London Living Rent) are then shown graphically on the household income figures below.

The figures each show the net rents for social and affordable rents, the 'spread' of London Living Rents, from the lowest Ward value to the highest, across the Borough, and the 'spread' of market rents for comparison.

The figures show that in general London Living Rents gradually move upwards as the bedroom size increases.

Figures for 4, 5 and 6 bedroom properties are not shown, because it is not possible to produce statistically sound income estimates for the small proportion of large families among all household types.













Discounted Market Rents: affordability

The table below shows the average private sector rents in the north and south of the Borough, roughly corresponding to the NW London and Inner N London BRMAs, discounted market rents at 60%, 70% and 80% of market, the income required to afford these rents at 33% of income, and the percentage of each household type estimated to be able to afford these rents. Each household type is then shown graphically below.

Market ren	ts in private sector, discounted re			of market, rent withou		uired to aff	ord rent @	33% of inco	me, and %
		60% n	narket	70% n	70% market		80% market		market
		north	south	north	south	north	south	north	south
1 bed	Weekly rent	£145	£172	£169	£200	£193	£229	£241	£286
(Single person)	Income required to afford rent at less than 33% of gross income	£22,592	£26,763	£26,357	£31,224	£30,122	£35,684	£37,653	£44,606
	% of households with incomes less than:	42%	53%	53%	63%	63%	72%	75%	82%
1 bed	Weekly rent	£145	£172	£169	£200	£193	£229	£241	£286
(Couple, no children)	Income required to afford rent at less than 33% of gross income	£22,592	£26,763	£26,357	£31,224	£30,122	£35,684	£37,653	£44,606
ennureny	% of households with incomes less than:	19%	23%	23%	30%	28%	36%	39%	49%
2 bed	Weekly rent	£183	£208	£214	£243	£245	£278	£306	£347
(single parent, 1	Income required to afford rent at less than 33% of gross income	£28,614	£32,513	£33,383	£37,931	£38,152	£43,350	£47,689	£54,188
child)	% of households with incomes less than:	85%	87%	88%	91%	91%	94%	95%	96%
2 bed	Weekly rent	£183	£208	£214	£243	£245	£278	£306	£347
(Couple, 1	Income required to afford rent at less than 33% of gross income	£28,614	£32,513	£33,383	£37,931	£38,152	£43,350	£47,689	£54,188
child)	% of households with incomes less than:	39%	45%	46%	53%	53%	59%	62%	67%
3 bed	Weekly rent	£222	£260	£258	£304	£295	£347	£369	£434
(Single parent, 2	Income required to afford rent at less than 33% of gross income	£34,564	£40,625	£40,325	£47,396	£46,085	£54,167	£57,607	£67,709
children)	% of households with incomes less than:	90%	94%	94%	96%	96%	97%	97%	98%
3 bed	Weekly rent	£222	£260	£258	£304	£295	£347	£369	£434
Couple, 2 (Couple, 2	Income required to afford rent at less than 33% of gross income	£34,564	£40,625	£40,325	£47,396	£46,085	£54,167	£57,607	£67,709
children)	% of households with incomes less than:	50%	59%	59%	66%	65%	71%	75%	81%
	Weekly rent	£273	£318	£319	£371	£364	£424	£455	£530
4 or more bedrooms	Income required to afford rent at less than 33% of gross income	£42,633	£49,561	£49,739	£57,821	£56,844	£66,082	£71,055	£83,602
	% of households with incomes less than:	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data

Note: the Valuation Office Agency only produces average private sector rents for 'four bedrooms or more': it is therefore not possible to analyse five or six bedroom properties separately.






LHA rent in NW London	^	et attord 100% of lower حصامة علامه مرافعه مرافعه مرافعه المراجع مراجع م
LHA rent in Inner N London		
		91% - 94% cannot afford 80% of lower quartile market rent @ 33% of income
		88% - 91% cannot afford 70% of lower quartile market rent @ 33% of income
		85% - 87% cannot afford 60% of lower quartile market rent @ 33% of income

×	97% - 98% cannot afford 100% of lower	quartile market rents	96% - 97% cannot afford 80% of lower quartile market rents	94% - 96% cannot afford 70% of lower quartile market rents	90% - 94% cannot afford lower quartile market rents		83680 81120 79560 76440 74880 74880
ea propert	979 affo	enb	206 96	94 aff	06 jiji		13350 11260 20500 98640 92080
e PRS							e2250 e38e0 e5400 e0840 23580
erents in th							077720 56160 04000 04052 08412 05052
gross annual income required to anord the rent of a 3 ped property 3%, 70% and 60% of lower quartile rents in the PRS				↓			48320 48320 42240 43280 43280 43250
160% of lov					•		40260 32440 32880 34320
at 100%, 80%, 70% and 60% of lower quartile rents in the PRS	- uo				-		35760 31200 29640 28080 26520
	LHA rent in NW London	LHA rent in Inner N London					54960 53400 51840 50580 18250 12160
at 100%, 80	LHArer	LHA rer					12460 174040 15480 10350 10350
7							2800 9540 9540 4980 3150 1290
	0.07	180	160	120	80	20	0

The incomes required for Shared Ownership

This section gives estimates of the proportions of different household types able to afford to buy 25% or 50% or 75% of a property offered on shared ownership terms.

The proportions estimated to be 'able to afford' are the proportion of each household type with incomes less than £80,000 and therefore eligible to purchase properties supported by HCA/GLA grant.

The proportions 'able to afford' to buy are calculated using the HCA Target incomes calculator from the HCA Capital Funding Guide². The calculator is designed to assess the target market for shared ownership properties, and therefore assumes a basic measure of affordability applicable to all households, rather than a detailed assessment of each individual purchaser's circumstances.

The calculator contains a number of variables which can be set by the user. The figure below shows the variables together with the initial settings set by the HCA.

	Mortgage interest rate	6.50%
ŝ	Rent	2.75%
В	Service charge pa	£1,320
VARIABLES	Net income cap	45%
×.	Income multiplier	3.50
	Mortgage period (years)	25
	Assumed deposit	10%

The outputs using these settings are shown in the figure below.

	Purchase price:	£200,000	Min income based on affordability	Min income based on multiplier	mortgag	Monthly rent	Monthly service charge	Deposit required			
ш	Initial share	25%	£27,430	£17,375	£307.43	£344	£110	£5,000			
RANGE		35%	£30,210	£24,324	£430.40	£298	£110	£7,000			
		40%	£31,600	£27,799	£491.89	£275	£110	£8,000			
NCOME		50%	£34,379	£34,749	£614.86	£229	£110	£10,000			
2		60%	£37,159	£41,699	£737.83	£183	£110	£12,000			
≤		75%	£41,329	£52,124	£922.29	£115	£110	£15,000			
	NB - The high	NB - The higher of the affordability or multiplier income should be used as the minimum									

In the example above, the affordability income is higher than the multiplier income in the case of a purchaser buying 20% to 40% of a property, while the income multiplier is the higher for a purchaser buying 50% to 75% of a property.

The balance between the 'affordability income' and the 'multiplier income' is affected by the interest rate, the service charge and the deposit: if any of these are lower, then the 'multiplier income' becomes higher than the 'affordability income' at lower incomes.

² <u>https://www.gov.uk/guidance/capital-funding-guide/1-help-to-buy-shared-ownership#affordability</u>

The HCA calculator also assumes a standard check on the sustainability of a mortgage if interest rates rise, using a 6.5% interest rate.

The examples shown in this report have assumed an interest rate of 3.75% (the Standard Variable Rate used by the major lenders is now 3.74% following the recent rate increase by the Bank of England), in order reflect the actual cost of house purchase at the present time, and to make the costs of buying or renting more comparable.

The use of a 3.75% interest rate makes no difference to the income required to buy between 50% and 75% of a property, where the 'multiplier income' is higher than the 'affordability income', but lowers the income required for purchase by between £1,000 and £1,500 per annum for each percentage point in the interest rate below 6.5%.

A service charge of £1,000 per annum has also been assumed, except for the examples of a couple with 2 or 3 children, who are assumed to occupy a house rather than a flat and to have no service charges.













APPENDIX 1

Private Sector Rents and Local Housing Allowances in Brent

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is responsible for monitoring private sector rents and for setting the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates for each Broad Rental Market Area (BRMA) in England.

Brent is covered by three BRMAs: North West London, Inner North London, and a small part of Inner West London, mainly in the Stonebridge Ward, as shown in the maps below.





Source: Valuation Office Agency

The VOA also collects data for the Greater London Authority (GLA) on private sector rents at the Borough level, and by postcode district.

The overall pattern of average private sector rents in Brent, for the period October 2016 to September 2017, is shown below:

Private sector rents: Valuation Office Agency data for GLA, October 2016 - September 2017								
Bedroom Category	Count of rents	Mean	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile			
Room	60	562	466	542	650			
Studio	160	871	785	850	953			
One Bedroom	390	1,200	1,074	1,200	1,300			
Two Bedrooms	640	1,498	1,350	1,495	1,625			
Three Bedrooms	310	1,952	1,650	1,800	2,100			
Four or More Bedrooms	210	2,635	2,000	2,300	2,750			

The VOA data for postcode districts is shown in the table below. Postcode districts do not match geographically with Wards, but the approximate relationship between Wards and postcode districts is shown in the table.

						or postcode	,	
Postcode	Bedroom Category		Mean	Lower	Median	Upper	Wards which includ districts	ie postcode
District HA0	Room	rents	439	quartile	447	quartile		
HA0	Studio	10 30	439 872	325 800	417 863		Alperto Sudbury	
HAO	One Bedroom	80	1,116	1,025	¢		Northwick Park	
HA0	Two Bedrooms	100	1,404	1,300	¢i		Wembley Central	
HA0	Three Bedrooms	50	1,724	1,600	1,725			
HA0	Four or More Bedrooms	30	2,184	1,995	2,100	2,400		
HA1	Room	10	1,001	592	921	1,517	Northwick Park	
HA1	Studio	60	1,032	863	1,100	1,200		
HA1	One Bedroom	100	1,096	1,000	1,095			
HA1	Two Bedrooms	210	1,390	1,275				
HA1	Three Bedrooms	40	1,643	1,495	¢iiiii			
HA1	Four or More Bedrooms	20	2,171	1,800	2,195	2,500		
HA3	Room	-					Barnhill	
HA3 HA3	Studio One Bedroom	30 70	755 984	675 900	763 975		Kenton Northwick Park	
HA3	Two Bedrooms	130	1,272	1,200	1,275		NORTHWICK Fark	
HA3	Three Bedrooms	110	1,617	1,200	¢i			
HA3	Four or More Bedrooms	70	2,073	1,800	¢i	2,300		
HA7	Room	-					Queensbury	
HA7	Studio	10	769	680	781	875		
HA7	One Bedroom	50	1,151	1,038	\$			
HA7	Two Bedrooms	120	1,466	1,300	1,400			
HA7	Three Bedrooms	80	1,804	1,650	¢i-			
HA7	Four or More Bedrooms	30	2,352	2,050	¢i			
HA8	Room	10	520	442	542		Queensbury	
HA8	Studio	20	752	700	728			
HA8	One Bedroom	60	1,063	922	1,050			
HA8	Two Bedrooms	130	1,344	1,250	1,350			
HA8	Three Bedrooms	60	1,676	1,550	••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••			
HA8	Four or More Bedrooms	20	2,427	1,900	2,175			
HA9	Room Studio	10	574	479	510		Preston	
HA9 HA9	One Bedroom	30 100	865	750	842 1,150		Tokyngton Barnhill	
HA9 HA9	Two Bedrooms	150	1,133 1,443	1,018 1,325	1,150		Sudbury	
HA9	Three Bedrooms	50	1,766	1,525			Wembley Central	
HA9	Four or More Bedrooms	50	2,471	1,000	¢i		Northwick Park	
NW10	Room	20	577	475	563		Alperton	Stonebridge
NW10	Studio	60	881	800	850			Tokyngton
NW10	One Bedroom	100	1,268	1,200	1.278		Dudden Hill	Welsh Harp
NW10	Two Bedrooms	190	1,531	1,400	1,517		Harlesden	Wembley Cent
NW10	Three Bedrooms	80	2,040	1,733			Kensal Green	Willesden Gree
NW10	Four or More Bedrooms	50	2,847	2,200			Queens Park	
NW2	Room	10	790	585	676	758	Brondesbury Park	
NW2	Studio	40	959	831	915	1,127	Dollis Hill	
NW2	One Bedroom	60	1,247	1,148	1,213	1,343	Dudden Hill	
NW2	Two Bedrooms	90	1,607	1,495			Mapesbury	
NW2	Three Bedrooms	70	1,958	1,774			Welsh Harp	
NW2	Four or More Bedrooms	30	2,976	2,100	2,513	3,250	Willesden Green	
NW6	Room	-					Brondesbury Park	
NW6	Studio	30	1,008	875	1,049		Kilburn	
NW6	One Bedroom	60	1,469	1,360	o		Mapesbury	
NW6 NW6	Two Bedrooms	120	1,846				Queens Park	
NW6 NW6	Three Bedrooms Four or More Bedrooms	50 20	2,595 3,757	2,145 2,123				
NW8	Studio	20 20	3,757		¢i		Kilburn	
NW8	One Bedroom	20 190	1,331				NIDUITI	
NW8	Two Bedrooms	190	2,396					
NW8	Three Bedrooms	90	3,791		\$i			
NW8	Four or More Bedrooms	40	9,270		••••••			
NW9	Room	20	565				Kenton	
NW9	Studio	50	951		¢		Northwick Park	
NW9	One Bedroom	80	1,162	1,063	••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••		Qeensbury	
NW9	Two Bedrooms	120	1,431	1,343			Welsh Harp	
NW9	Three Bedrooms	50	1,690	1,550	••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••			
NW9	Four or More Bedrooms	20	2,166	1,900	2,150	2,383		
NW26	Room	0					Harlesden	
NW26	Studio	0			ļ			
NW26	One Bedroom	0						
NW26	Two Bedrooms	0	······			·		
NW26	Three Bedrooms	0						
NW26	Four or More Bedrooms	0					Lenn	
W9	Room	0		4 057	4 407	4 965	Kilburn	
W9	Studio One Bedroom	20	1,108				Queens Park	
W9 W9	One Bedroom Two Bedrooms	110 140	1,640					
W9	Three Bedrooms	140 70	2,146 2,905					
W9	Four or More Bedrooms	70	2,905		¢i-			
W10	Room	0	1,001	-+,171	+,302	0,042	Queens Park	
W10	Studio	30	1,092	975	1,014	1,300	•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	
W10	One Bedroom	40	1,590		Qi			
W10	Two Bedrooms	50	2,278		••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••		•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••	
W10	Three Bedrooms	20	2,419					
	Four or More Bedrooms		-1-19	-,		-1		

APPENDIX 2

London Living Rents

London Living Rent (LLR) is a structure of rents, at Ward level, throughout London which seeks to produce sub market rents, affordable to households earning less than £60,000, but which mimic the geographic pattern of market rents for different bedsizes of property.

The GLA describes the LLR as "an intermediate affordable housing product, with rents based on one third of average local household incomes and targeted at middle-income households in London's private rented sector who are looking to build up savings for future shared ownership or outright purchase. Eligibility is restricted to households that are currently renting, with a maximum income of £60,000* and who are not currently able to purchase a home (including through shared ownership) in the local area."

The London Living Rent is calculated to be one third of the median gross household income, in each Borough, of a household requiring a two bedroom property. The gross median household income for London is derived from the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) dataset, adjusted for each Borough using data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE).

The resulting average rent for a two bedroom property in a Borough is then adjusted for each Ward, by up to 20% above or below that average, to reflect Ward level variations in sale prices between Wards over the last three years.

The LLR for other bedsizes of property in any Ward are then set as a proportion of the two bed rent in that Ward: 90% for 1 bed, 110% for a three bed, 120% for a four bed, and so on.

As a check on affordability, the LLR for any individual property must be at least 20% below its assessed market rent.

The resulting LLR monthly, and weekly, rents for each Ward are set out in the tables below.

The London Living Rent produces a complex pattern of rents across Brent, varying (for a one bedroom property) from £624 per month in Kenton to £936 in Queens Park, for a two bedroom property from £693 in Kenton to £1,040 in Queens Park, and for a three bedroom property from £763 in Kenton to £1,144 in Queen's Park. There is therefore a 50% variation in the LLR rates between the lowest priced and highest priced Wards in Brent.

	London Livi	ing Rent: mont	hly limits for a	ach Ward hu k	adriza	
	London Liv	ing Kent: mont		ach ward by t		
Ward name	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six bedrooms
	bedroom	bedrooms	bedrooms	bedrooms	bedrooms	
Alperton	692	769	846	923	1000	1077
Barnhill	670	744	819	893	968	1042
Brondesbury Park	874	971	1068	1165	1262	1359
Dollis Hill	708	787	866	944	1023	1102
Dudden Hill	729	810	891	972	1053	1134
Fryent	662	736	810	883	957	1030
Harlesden	708	787	866	944	1023	1102
Kensal Green	853	948	1043	1138	1233	1328
Kenton	624	693	763	832	901	971
Kilburn	869	966	1062	1159	1255	1352
Mapesbury	845	939	1033	1127	1221	1315
Northwick Park	655	727	800	873	946	1018
Preston	678	753	828	904	979	1054
Queens Park	936	1040	1144	1248	1352	1456
Queensbury	784	872	959	1046	1133	1220
Stonebridge	769	855	940	1026	1111	1197
Sudbury	642	714	785	857	928	999
Tokyngton	674	749	824	899	974	1049
Welsh Harp	636	706	777	847	918	989
Wembley Central	662	736	810	883	957	1030
Willesden Green	810	900	990	1080	1170	1260

London Living Rent: weekly limits for each Ward by bedsize								
Ward name	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six bedrooms		
	bedroom	bedrooms	bedrooms	bedrooms	bedrooms			
Alperton	160	177	195	213	231	248		
Barnhill	155	172	189	206	223	241		
Brondesbury Park	202	224	246	269	291	314		
Dollis Hill	163	182	200	218	236	254		
Dudden Hill	168	187	206	224	243	262		
Fryent	153	170	187	204	221	238		
Harlesden	163	182	200	218	236	254		
Kensal Green	197	219	241	263	284	306		
Kenton	144	160	176	192	208	224		
Kilburn	201	223	245	267	290	312		
Mapesbury	195	217	238	260	282	304		
Northwick Park	151	168	185	201	218	235		
Preston	156	174	191	209	226	243		
Queens Park	216	240	264	288	312	336		
Queensbury	181	201	221	241	261	282		
Stonebridge	178	197	217	237	256	276		
Sudbury	148	165	181	198	214	231		
Tokyngton	156	173	190	207	225	242		
Welsh Harp	147	163	179	196	212	228		
Wembley Central	153	170	187	204	221	238		
Willesden Green	187	208	228	249	270	291		

The calculation used for the production of London Living Rents for the different bedsizes of properties does not reflect the pattern of differentials in the private rented market.

The table below shows the mean lower quartile rents of one, three and four bedroom properties as a percentage of the rent of a two bedroom property in each Ward and postcode district. The table shows that the rents of one bedroom properties in the open market are in general between 75% and 85% of the rent of a two bedroom property, rather than the 90% used in the calculation of the LLR differentials.

Similarly, the rents of three bedroom properties in the open market are around 120% to 125% of the two bedroom rent, rather than the 110% of the LLR, and the rents of four bedroom properties in the open market are around 140% to 150% of the LLR.

The overall effect is therefore that rents set at the LLR will tend to disfavour single people and couples renting one bedroom units, and favour larger families renting three and four bedroom properties, when compared to the pattern of rent differentials produced by the open market.

Mean lower quartile PRS rents as % of 2 bedroom PRS rent								
Ward name	One	Two	Three	Four				
	bedroom	bedrooms	bedrooms	bedrooms				
Alperton								
HA0 NW10	78.85 85.71	100	123.08 123.79	153.46 157.14				
Barnhill	85./1	100	123.79	157.14				
HA1	78.43	100	117.25	141.18				
HA3	75.00	100	125.00	150.00				
HA9	76.83	100	120.75	150.57				
Brondesbury Park								
NW6	84.84	100	133.81	132.44				
NW10	85.71	100	123.79	157.14				
NW2	76.79	100	118.66	140.47				
Dollis Hill NW2	76.79	100	118.66	140.47				
Dudden Hill	70.75	100	110.00	140.47				
NW2	76.79	100	118.66	140.47				
NW10	85.71	100	123.79	157.14				
Fryent								
NW9	79.15	100	115.41	141.47				
Harlesden								
NW10	85.71	100	123.79	157.14				
NW26 Kensal Green	·	· · ·	· ·					
Kensal Green NW10	85.71	100	123.79	157.14				
Kenton	03./1	100	123.79	137.14				
HA3	75.00	100	125.00	150.00				
NW9	79.15	100	115.41	141.47				
Kilburn	1		1					
NW6	84.84	100	133.81	132.44				
NW8	80.91	100	143.16	204.51				
W9	81.92	100	132.54	231.98				
Mapesbury								
NW2	76.79	100	118.66	140.47				
NW6 Northwick Park	84.84	100	133.81	132.44				
HAO	78.85	100	123.08	153.46				
HA1	78.43	100	117.25	141.18				
HA3	75.00	100	125.00	150.00				
HA9	76.83	100	120.75	150.57				
NW9	79.15	100	115.41	141.47				
Preston								
HA9	76.83	100	120.75	150.57				
Queens Park	04.04	100	122.01	122.44				
NW6 NW10	84.84 85.71	100	133.81	132.44 157.14				
W9	81.92	100	132.54	231.98				
W10	75.97	100	112.55					
Queensbury								
HA7	79.85	100	126.92	157.69				
HA8	73.76	100	124.00	136.00				
NW9	79.15	100	115.41	141.47				
Stonebridge								
NW10	85.71	100	123.79	157.14				
Sudbury	70.05	100	172.00	152.46				
HAO HA9	78.85 76.83	100	123.08 120.75	153.46				
Tokyngton	70.03	100	120.73	100.07				
HA9	76.83	100	120.75	150.57				
NW10	85.71	100	123.79	157.14				
Welsh Harp								
NW10	85.71	100	123.79	157.14				
NW2	76.79	100	118.66	140.47				
NW9	79.15	100	115.41	141.47				
Wembley Central	70.00		4.32.00	453.45				
HA0	78.85	100	123.08	153.46				
HA9 NW10	76.83 85.71	100	120.75 123.79	150.57				
Willesden Green	03.71	100	123.73	137.14				
NW10	85.71	100	123.79	157.14				
NW2	76.79	100	118.66	140.47				

London Living Rents and Local Housing Allowances

The table below shows the relationship between London Living Rents and the Local Housing Allowance for each Ward.

In general, the LLR is significantly below the LHR, although for one bedroom properties in eight Wards the LLR is more than 80% of the LHR (and in one of these Wards, Queensbury, the LLR is 95% of the LHR), indicating that a continuing freeze of LHA rates could lead to rents for one bed properties in these Wards eventually being capped at an LHA rate which is effectively reducing as a proportion of market rents.

London Living Rent as % of Local Housing Allowance								
Ward name	One	Two	Three	Four				
ware name	bedroom	bedrooms	bedrooms	bedrooms				
Alperton	83	73	64	57				
Barnhill	81	71	62	55				
Brondesbury Park	77	74	70	64				
Dollis Hill	63	60	56	52				
Dudden Hill	65	62	58	54				
Fryent	80	70	62	54				
Harlesden	63	60	56	52				
Kensal Green	76	72	68	63				
Kenton	75	66	58	51				
Kilburn	77	74	69	64				
Mapesbury	75	72	67	62				
Northwick Park	79	69	61	54				
Preston	82	72	63	56				
Queens Park	83	79	74	69				
Queensbury	95	83	73	64				
Stonebridge	68	65	61	57				
Sudbury	77	68	60	53				
Tokyngton	81	71	63	55				
Welsh Harp	77	67	59	52				
Wembley Central	80	70	62	54				
Willesden Green	72	69	64	60				