

# Community Investment Framework



Basingstoke  
and Deane

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## **Overview: A Community Investment Framework**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1. The Community Investment Framework provides a basis for influencing change and decisions in a co-ordinated way that is informed by evidence of need. It brings together the priorities and ambitions of the council, key partner organisations and local communities. It will enable better understanding of the local community needs and foster closer partner working to help meet those needs in a more effective way.

1.2. The Framework:

- brings together council strategies in one framework to guide, co-ordinate and maximise the impact of any community investment and activity
- sets out key objectives that all providers can contribute to
- sets out principles to inform decisions about community investment.

1.3. This framework is guided by other council documents that establish the overall direction for the council, such as the Shared Vision for the Borough, the adopted Local Plan, and the Council Plan. It does not seek to introduce or duplicate in detail policies that are established in other strategies. The Community Investment Framework acts as a tool; a checklist to guide the development of proposals, which will each go through their own decision-making route.

### **2. Vision**

Our vision is for attractive vitalised neighbourhoods with community infrastructure that meets local need, and places and communities where people want to live, can thrive, and feel they belong.

New and existing communities will connect well, with good access to facilities, services and activities.

Communities will be enabled to become healthy and resilient, taking on more ownership, and people will influence the changes affecting their areas.

### **3. Scope**

3.1. Initially developed through work to support western Basingstoke it is intended that the vision, objectives and principles form a framework to inform and guide community investment decisions across the borough.

3.2. It will first be tested on western Basingstoke, which covers the town electoral wards of Rooksdown, Winklebury, Buckskin, South Ham, Kempshott, Hatch Warren and Beggarwood and recognises the needs of, and linkages with, neighbouring communities in the wards of Sherborne St John and Oakley and North Waltham. A map is at Appendix A.

#### **4. Objectives and Principles**

4.1. The following objectives and principles draw on current strategies and emerging work streams that impact on community infrastructure and services for the communities. They have been developed through engagement with a panel of ward councillors of western Basingstoke, and consultation with partner agencies. They are informed by reference to data and local intelligence (see Summary of Key Issues for western Basingstoke), and local priorities of some of our partner organisations.

##### **Objectives (*what we want to achieve*)**

1. To enhance the built and natural environment through regeneration of areas of greatest need.
2. To protect and enhance the provision and quality of facilities and spaces that people need.
3. To enable good access to services for all through co-ordinated partnership working.
4. To enable residents to be informed and involved in shaping their local areas.
5. To connect people and places, including between and within new and existing communities, and improve accessibility and movement.

**Objective 1: To enhance the built and natural environment through regeneration of areas of greatest need.**

**Where do we want to be?**

**Principles:** *(to test whether moving towards vision and objectives)*

- 1.1 Regeneration in priority areas to provide social, economic and environmental benefit and increase opportunities for residents.
- 1.2 Regeneration to comprise refurbishment, remodelling and /or redevelopment seeking to 'keep the best and improve the rest'.
- 1.3 Regeneration to aim to provide additional homes, and create neighbourhoods with mixed tenures.
- 1.4 Any improvement scheme to complement rather than compete with surrounding areas.
- 1.5 Any improvement scheme to contribute to overcoming any deficiencies in provision for facilities, access to and provision of public open space and contribute to preserving and enhancing biodiversity.

Related adopted BDBC and partner strategies:

- Adopted Local Plan to 2029
- Strategic Approach to Regeneration 2011
- Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013-2029
- Climate Change Strategy for BDBC 2014
- Emerging Housing Strategy
- The ten principles for Manydown
- Emerging LPA Manydown Development Brief

Other BDBC programmes:

- Environmental Renewal Scheme

**Objective 2: To protect and enhance the provision and quality of facilities and spaces that people need.**

**Where do we want to be?**

**Principles:** *(to test whether moving towards vision and objectives)*

- 2.1 All facilities and green spaces to be, as a minimum, accessible, fit for purpose and adaptable to meet the varied needs of identified users.
- 2.2 All facilities and spaces to be well maintained, sustainable with plans for their future management, evidence of community engagement, and promoted to maximise use.
- 2.3 Green spaces to be of high quality design and offer a range of flexible recreational facilities and biodiversity opportunities.
- 2.4 Facilities to be situated close to other community amenities where possible to form part of a hub for community activity.
- 2.5 Any new facilities and spaces to have high quality design and be specified with the highest appropriate energy efficiency measures, and flexibility to meet a range of needs and adaptability to accommodate future needs.

Related adopted BDBC and partner strategies:

- Adopted Local Plan to 2029
- Strategic Plan for Sport and Recreation in Basingstoke and Deane 2012-2025
- Community Buildings Strategy for BDBC 2014
- BDBC Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013 - 2029
- Climate Change Strategy for BDBC 2014.
- The ten principles for Manydown
- Emerging LPA Manydown Development Brief

Other BDBC programmes:

- Environmental Renewal Schemes
- Allotment Standards
- Local Infrastructure Fund

**Objective 3: To enable good access to services for all through co-ordinated partnership working.**

**Where do we want to be?**

**Principles:** *(to test whether moving towards vision and objectives)*

- 3.1 Essential services to be well publicised and easily accessible by reducing the barriers to access.
- 3.2 Enable the development of quality provision through innovative solutions, with or by the community, where there is evidence of unmet need.
- 3.3 Opportunities will be taken to provide other solutions and to pool resources to deliver services locally.
- 3.4 Provision of services to be flexible to enable future evolution as communities change and to reflect community views.

Related adopted BDBC and partner strategies:

- Adopted Local Plan to 2029
- Emerging Housing Strategy
- A Shared Plan to Improve Health and Wellbeing in Basingstoke and Deane
- BDBC Corporate Equality Plan
- BDBC Cycling Strategy 2016
- The ten principles for Manydown
- Emerging LPA Manydown Development Brief

**Objective 4: To enable residents to be informed and involved in shaping their local areas.**

**Where do we want to be?**

**Principles:** *(to test whether moving towards vision and objectives)*

- 4.1 The community will be involved at the earliest opportunity to inform proposals.
- 4.2 Community feedback and priorities, such as those identified through community-led plans, together with information about levels of need, demand and aspiration, is used to inform and plan actions.
- 4.3 Residents will have a voice in helping their communities develop successfully over the long-term.
- 4.4 Where possible communities will be supported to find their own solutions, including developing opportunities for community ownership and management of services, facilities and spaces.

Related adopted BDBC and partner strategies:

- Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership Involved Communities Strategy 2008
- Community Buildings Strategy for BDBC 2014
- Adopted Local Plan to 2029
- Statement of Community Involvement
- Community Engagement and Consultation Statement – BDBC
- The ten principles for Manydown
- Emerging LPA Manydown Development Brief

Other BDBC programmes:

- Support to communities taking forward community-led plans
- Local Level Decision-Making pilots
- Local Infrastructure Fund

Community-led Plans

- Published and emerging Community Plans
- 'Made' and emerging Neighbourhood Plans

**Objective 5: To connect people and places, including between and within new and existing communities and improve accessibility and movement.**

**Where do we want to be?**

**Principles:** *(to test whether moving towards vision and objectives)*

- 5.1 Community places and spaces to provide opportunities for communities to come together in both formal and informal ways to drive social connections.
- 5.2 All community facilities and amenities to have good physical links especially no /low cost travel options such as signed safe footpaths, and crossing points, cycle ways and easy access to bus routes.
- 5.3 Places and spaces to provide connections for nature and access to nature.
- 5.4 Local connectivity, including to the town centre and to employment, should be improved and minimise the impact on the transport network or wider environment.

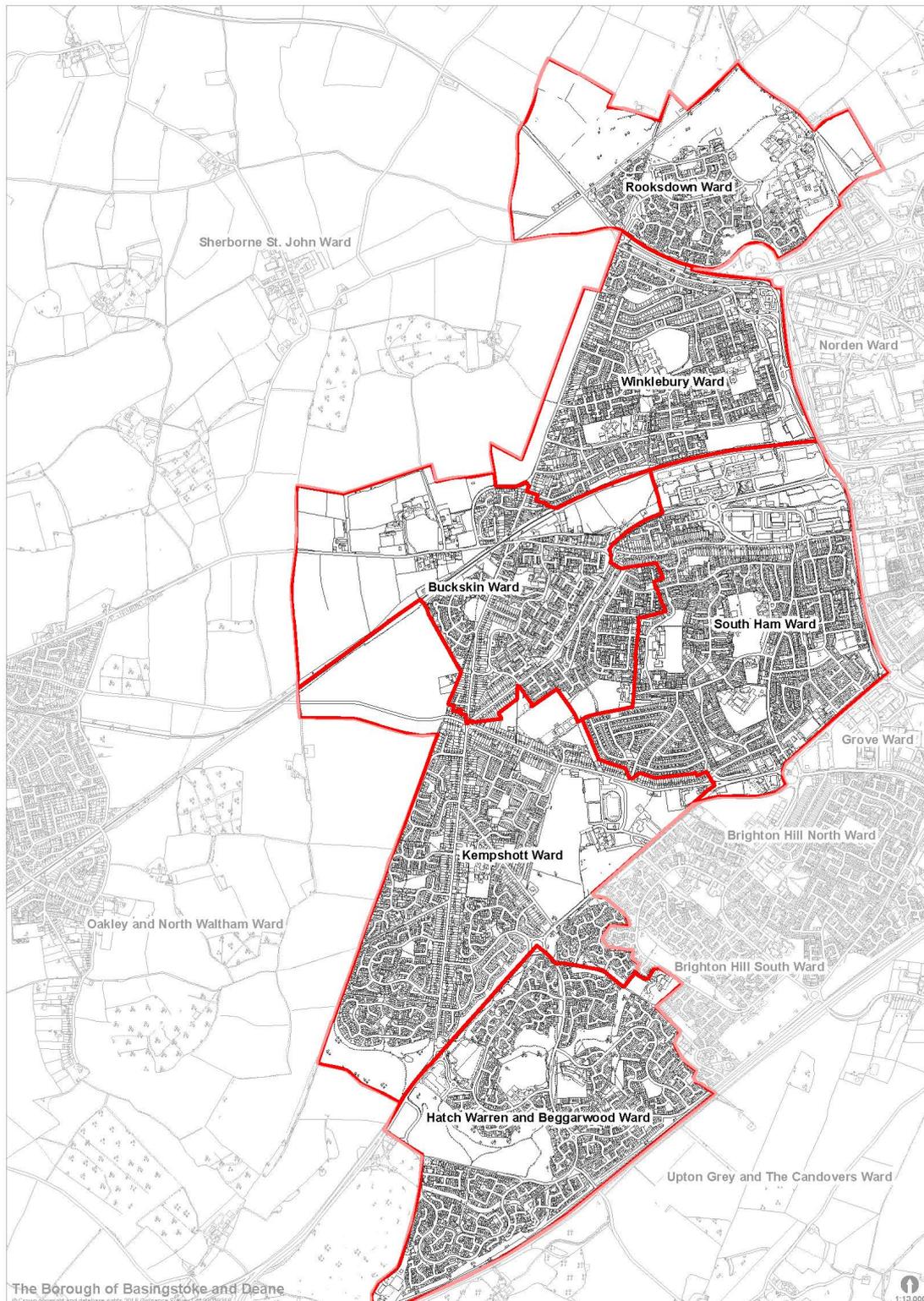
Related adopted BDBC and partner strategies:

- Adopted Local Plan to 2029
- Community Buildings Strategy for BDBC 2014.
- Strategic Plan for Sport and Recreation in Basingstoke and Deane 2012-2025.
- BDBC Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013 - 2029
- Climate Change Strategy for BDBC 2014.
- BDBC Cycling Strategy 2016
- The ten principles for Manydown
- Emerging LPA Manydown Development Brief

Other BDBC programmes:

- Love Parks initiative
- Environmental Renewal Scheme programme

## APPENDIX A: Western Basingstoke



## **Principles of Engagement Community Investment Framework**

- 1. Why have principles of engagement?**
  - 1.1 In developing a strategy covering a wide area and broad themes it may not always be possible to reach consensus around some issues. However, greater involvement and sharing of information will bring about better understanding of the range of issues and competing interests.
  - 1.2 Having an agreed set of principles will help all organisations be clear on how they intend to work together in implementing the Community Investment Framework and how they will engage, involve and consult with communities on schemes coming from it.
  - 1.3 This approach recognises that all partner organisations are serving the same communities, wish to make best use of resources and share information to develop and deliver better outcomes for local communities.
  
- 2. What are the principles of engagement based on?**
  - 2.1 These principles have been developed by:
    - reference to existing partnership protocols developed through the Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership<sup>1</sup>.
    - listening to what local people have already said about how they are consulted with and involved<sup>2</sup>.
    - drawing on the approaches that local organisations already take in their communications and engagement strategies, including agreed approaches with the voluntary and community sectors<sup>3</sup>.
    - drawing on national guidance<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership brings together the public, private, voluntary and community sectors working to the same overall aim of improving the quality of life to the benefit of everyone living and working in the borough of Basingstoke and Deane.

<sup>2</sup> This includes the *Involved Communities Strategy* (2008) developed through the Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership following engagement with the voluntary and community sectors, and the [Statement of Community Involvement](#) (2007) developed through the planning process, which was subject to consultation and independent inspection.

<sup>3</sup> This includes the [One Compact for Hampshire](#) agreement between the voluntary sector and the public sector organisations.

<sup>4</sup> This includes [Consultation Principles \(2016\)](#) from the Cabinet Office and the *Gunning Principles* (2012)

### 3. Scope

- 3.1 The Community Investment Framework provides a basis for influencing change and decisions in a co-ordinated. It brings together the priorities and ambitions of the council, key partner organisations and the local communities. It will enable better understanding of local community needs and foster closer partner working to help meet those needs in a more effective way.
- 3.2 These principles of engagement act as a guide to developing the Framework and designing schemes and initiatives coming from it.

### 4. Key principles for working in partnership

- 4.1 In working on the Community Investment Framework partner organisations will:

- A: Recognise that different organisations have different roles and responsibilities** – some have a range of functions, such as the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group and councils which have statutory duties. This can include how the organisations engage when planning services. Some organisations like housing associations have close relationships with some residents; councillors play a particular role as elected representatives. Working together helps us understand each other's priorities and constraints.
- B: Recognise that partners are serving the same communities** – and that working together and sharing information helps provide deeper insight and understanding of the needs and priorities of local people. This includes the current strengths, issues, and potential tensions and the longer term challenges and opportunities.
- C: Ensure that community and customer feedback, together with information about levels of need, demand and aspiration are used to plan and drive actions.** This helps develop the right proposals for the future and find the local solutions that work best. Where possible, communities will be helped to find their own solutions.
- D: Agree priorities for collaborative action** – working together to identify gaps in provision and eliminate duplication of effort and inefficient use of resources. Individual organisations will deliver or lead different elements of the agreed strategy.
- E: Develop solutions that maximise the impact** of investment and the outcomes for local communities over the longer term. This will cover improvements to their social, economic and environment wellbeing.
- F: Enable effective engagement** on initiatives with various sectors of the community, recognising that some partners may have closer connections and established communication channels with different groups.

## 5. Key principles for engaging with the community

5.1 In working on the schemes and initiatives coming from the Community Investment Framework partner organisations will:

- A: Be clear on the purpose of the engagement and be honest about the degree of influence respondents have.** The proposals or options should be set out clearly, considering who may be affected, when a decision will be taken and opportunities to influence the decision. Aspects that will not be subject to change should be clearly stated. Engagement may range from giving information, through consultation to long term involvement<sup>5</sup>.
- B: Allow full opportunity to have a say in decisions** – by ensuring those that are most affected by proposals are aware of opportunities to engage and people know how they can give their views. The process and channel of how to raise issues should be clear, and fair.
- C: Ensure first that consultation is needed** – sharing information where possible on previous feedback to ensure the questions have not already been answered, and building an understanding of community need and views.
- D: Involve people and organisations early on** – give a long period of notice of the opportunity to get involved so that they can be scheduled into regular meetings. This will help identify any issues, such as dates to avoid, and get views on the most effective ways to seek involvement such as venues or linking to pre-arranged events, or known channels of communication such as community newsletters. Consultation must take place when the proposal is still at a formative stage.
- E: Aim to reduce duplication** – joining up or aligning involvement activities where possible.
- F: Be community-focussed** – aiming to go into communities and linking with community activities rather than trying to get the community to come to specialist events or remote venues.
- G: Give information that is easy to understand and useful** – no jargon, or assumptions about what is already understood, to enable informed responses.
- H: Give adequate time to respond** – this may depend on the nature and impact of the proposal and vary with the time of year or external

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<sup>5</sup> Arnstein developed a model (1969) called the ladder of participation – summarised as: <https://sjondehaan.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/ladder-of-participation2.gif>. There have been many versions of this. See also <https://engagementtoolkit.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/ladder.jpg>

events. Note the expectation within the One Compact<sup>6</sup> of a twelve week written consultation period; with a minimum period of six weeks.

- I: Take account of particular needs** - such as physical access to venues or ability to communicate in different formats or through different channels. Consider the ways different groups such as young people, older people, those from different cultures and those with disabilities communicate, and when they may be most available to participate, such as avoiding school holidays.
- J: Give clear information on progress or decisions** – telling people how their views have shaped or influenced the policy, service or outcome.

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<sup>6</sup> [One Compact for Hampshire –paragraph 6](#)

## IMPLEMENTATION TRIGGERS FOR COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK

Different scenarios where the Community Investment Framework would inform developing proposals and investment decisions.



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