

Draft Babergh Corporate Plan 2023-2031

What do we stand for?

What drives us is a commitment to partnership and cooperation, exemplified by the make-up of our administration and the way we will work together with our communities, the voluntary sector, business, and our neighbouring councils to respond to the challenges that confront us and help build a sustainable future.

We will listen to and work with communities on the issues that matter most to them, giving them a say on their future. We will also support and empower them to deliver community-based solutions.

1. We will take the lead in responding to the challenge of climate change and protecting and enhancing our natural and historic environments

We recognise the threat climate change poses to the future of our communities and the impact it is having today. We live in a beautiful area, and we must protect and enhance our landscape and our wildlife habitats. Our role will be to bring groups together to develop new solutions, create an environment where these solutions can be put into practice, seek out funding and ensure our people have the new skills that will be needed.

2. We are ambitious for our communities, economy, and young people.

We will support local business, promote inward investment, and help market towns and villages to flourish. We will increase engagement between the Council, business, and schools so that our people will have more opportunities to learn new skills and secure good jobs. We will continue to work to improve access to the services and facilities that support thriving and healthy communities.

3. Strong communities will be built on good housing, wellbeing, and pride in the place we live.

We will prioritise well-designed, affordable homes. We will be there for people struggling with the high cost of living. We will develop pride and aspiration in our places.

Following consultation with all of you, our tenants, other partners, stakeholders, businesses and our own staff we will develop specific metrics to help us and you determine whether we are BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE. We also intend to use a combination of five overarching success measures:

- [The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Thriving Places Index](#)
- Liveability
- Reduction in Carbon Emissions
- Delivery of the Joint Local Plan

How will we do this

What's important	How might we achieve this
<p>We will take the lead in responding to the challenge of climate change and protecting and enhancing our natural and historic environments</p>	<p>Respond to the twin threats of climate change and biodiversity loss. Provide leadership and work with local businesses, charities, and communities to deliver measurable carbon reductions and biodiversity recovery.</p> <p>Encourage through planning policy the building of energy efficient homes and commercial buildings with high insulation standards and low carbon heating systems. Reaching these standards in our Council housing.</p> <p>Empower local communities to develop and deliver solutions to issues that matter to them, whilst being supported by the Council, such as local community energy projects.</p> <p>Halting the decline in biodiversity by a planned programme of tree planting and habitat restoration.</p> <p>There will be zero tolerance for fly tipping, encourage people to reduce their waste by reusing before recycling.</p> <p>Promote greener and healthier forms of travel so people can cycle and walk more, to promote physical and mental wellbeing.</p>
<p>We are ambitious for our communities, economy, and young people</p>	<p>Reinforce our commitment to reaching Net Zero by 2030 by prioritising and promoting the green economy, by championing solutions to retrofitting, renewable energy and green technologies and attracting companies from those sectors to Babergh.</p> <p>Work with schools and further education providers to develop the skills these companies need and help people who want to learn these skills.</p> <p>Develop and promote hubs for higher paid, higher skilled, sustainable jobs.</p> <p>Create an environment where start-ups and social enterprises can flourish and grow.</p> <p>Champion our market towns and villages, helping to preserve their unique character but working with all parties to develop new approaches to ensure they provide the services and facilities that communities want now and in the future.</p> <p>Lobby to bring our infrastructure up to 21st century standards in a way that minimises its impact on our countryside. Ensure that infrastructure is developed to support the needs of our growing population.</p>
<p>Strong communities will be built on good housing, wellbeing, and pride in the place we live</p>	<p>Our guiding principle will be - the right homes, in the right places, seeking to deliver housing that people can afford.</p> <p>Encourage local communities to take up the opportunity of neighbourhood plans to develop a vision for the future of their communities and work with them to ensure the homes that are built are well-designed. Ensure local communities have more say in the future development of their area.</p> <p>Explore partnering with registered providers to help build affordable homes to buy and rent at social rents.</p>

	<p>Explore, using planning policy, how listed buildings can benefit from advances in more energy-efficient and zero-carbon technologies.</p> <p>Explore reducing the impact of the housing crisis and support the health and wellbeing of our residents in partnership with the voluntary sector.</p> <p>Promote attracting visitors to our towns and villages, to see their heritage, character and beauty, ensuring residents support this tourism. Work with communities and voluntary groups to ensure that every part of Babergh is clean and tidy and that we can all have pride in where we live.</p> <p>Follow our commitments to the Armed Forces Covenant.</p>
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