

BASP Visioning Workshop



Identifying together the key ingredients for the growing borough's success in the next 30 years – covering the Local Plan to 2029, Manydown and beyond.

On 30 June 2016, 70 representatives from organisations providing services in the borough met to hear about some of the key developments planned for the borough and to share their views on how together, we can ensure Basingstoke remains a great place to live and work.

Over 30 organisations were represented from across the public, private and community sectors, enabling partners from different sectors to share their knowledge and expertise.



The event was opened by the chair of Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership, Anthony Bravo (Basingstoke College of Technology Principal). The leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Councillor Clive Sanders, delivered a key note address entitled 'Horizon 2050' which set the scene for some informed and lively discussions. This was followed by a presentation from Matthew Evans, Head of Planning and Infrastructure at the council, on The Local Plan to 2029. Richard Bayley, Manydown Project Director, then provided attendees with an update on the plans and anticipated timescales for the Manydown development.

Delegates then broke into workshops focusing on future needs for the borough with regards transport, education and skills, health and wellbeing, housing and community integration. Each delegate chose two workshops to take part in and contributed to some lively and forward thinking discussions. The key points from each workshop are summarised below however some key themes did emerge across all workshops:

- **the need for strategic whole borough planning**
- **the importance of cross sector partnership working**
- **plans must be fit for the future.**

The partner feedback will be fed into further visioning work and used to inform and shape strategies going forward.

Transport

What do we want our future transport system to deliver for the borough and how do we make this happen?

The Transport workshop delegates looked at what they felt the current problems were, what they would want a future transport system to deliver and which interventions they felt would best deliver this:

Current problems:

- Parking provision
- Through travel of public transport routes
- Poor sense of 'arrival' at Basingstoke train station
- Insufficient connectivity of town centre with key out of town sites
- Negative public perception of safety
- Cycle routes not coherent

What we want in a future transport system:

- Good circular movement
- It should be cheap, clean, safe, fast and available when demanded
- Access to Heathrow by train
- Proactive infrastructure strategy
- Environmentally friendly considerations
- Electric cycles
- For Basingstoke to be at the forefront of innovation and technology

Which innovations will best deliver this?

- Fast track transport
- A30 dualling
- Park and ride with appropriate support
- Improved access from the West of Basingstoke
- Public realm intervention

Education and Skills

What are the future skills requirements and how can our education system support this?

In the Education and Skills Workshop, delegates considered a number of current issues, identifying causes and suggesting possible solutions. One of the issues discussed was the difficulty schools face in attracting, retaining and re-training returning teachers. A number of possible contributory factors were identified:

- schools currently significantly under capacity
- poor perception of Basingstoke secondary schools linked to attainment results and Ofsted ratings
- shortage of key worker housing

Delegates felt there was a need for whole town catchment planning to consider whether we currently have the right number and size of schools to attract and keep good teachers and to improve attainment across the borough.

Partners also looked at ways of doing things differently with regards the duration of courses, flexible use of primary/secondary provision to respond to changes in demand and how employer led higher and further education could be offered within the borough to keep talented learners in Basingstoke.

It was felt there were a number of potential opportunities we should explore such as the surrounding universities' desire to deliver higher education in Basingstoke, the Manydown development and an increase in the possible governance structures for schools now available.

Health and Wellbeing

How can the living environment enhance our resilience and help us to be healthy and happy?

Within these workshops delegates suggested a number of ways in which the living environment could benefit health and wellbeing:

- Providing opportunities for physical activity via spaces (outside and inside) that are flexible, easily accessed, free, safe, offer a sense of community living and bring people together.
- Adaptable facilities should be built early which allow for co-location of services.
- Effective use of art
- Well planned public transport, cycle tracks and attractive walking routes that encourage people away from a dependence on cars.
- Early and on-going community involvement
- Technology, such as broadband, in early stages of development allowing for integration of work/leisure/home life
- Healthy food options easily available
- 'Live-Well Centre offering multi agency health and wellbeing support with a community purpose
- The design of buildings should be flexible to support changing needs

Community Integration

How do we create integrated and flourishing communities?

Those taking part in the community integration workshops looked at planning for new developments, integrating new and existing developments and rural communities.

Plans for new developments need to consider:

- Blend of tenure and property types
- How to provide sufficient parking (when the requirements are often more than anticipated)
- How good landscaping can be integrated within the development, not just on the periphery, enabling children to play safely within sight of parents
- The design of community facilities and where funding will come from to run them
- Regenerating older neighbourhoods alongside new developments
- If transport routes are genuinely designed with active travel in mind
- How to ensure early involvement of key service providers such as the Clinical Commissioning Group
- Involving first residents in on-going development plans
- Identifying how Section 106/CIL revenue will be utilised

How to integrate new and existing communities:

- Use media (traditional and modern) to communicate plans and shared facilities to encourage face to face interaction
- Establish shared hubs accessible to new and existing communities for faith groups and community and voluntary groups
- Consider demographic profiles of existing and new communities and relate to health provision
- Tackle any resentment early by involving neighbouring communities

- Link community development with phasing of actual development

Issues for rural communities:

- Access to facilities such as post office and libraries are key
- Diminishing public transport provision
- Access to superfast broadband

Opportunities brought by new rural developments:

- Establishment of new community hubs which can adapt over time
- Community ownership through active engagement
- Wider diversity in rural areas
- Sustainability via new income generation opportunities

Delegates felt that it was important to have an integrated approach from the early planning stage. That the first inhabitants set the marker and if facilities are not in place early, habits will be set which could make integration harder later on.

Housing

How do we meet the housing needs of the future?

The housing workshops looked at key drivers for future housing needs as well as predicted specific needs and homelessness.

Key drivers for future needs were identified as:

- A strong strategy that attracts younger people and young families to the borough and encourages resident young people to remain
- Understanding the significance of changes in demographics and lifestyles
- Ensuring we have the skills locally that employers need
- Understanding the housing situation through evidence of need rather than supply of homes
- Jointly funding and commissioning services alongside health
- Changes in funding regimes/subsidies and shift away from social housing for life
- Under occupation in larger properties
- Making the best use of the large social housing stock

Specific needs with regards future housing:

- Increase in number of older people alongside general move away from care homes
- Key workers
- Increasing number of children with special needs

Homelessness issues to be considered:

- Need to understand what we mean by homelessness – include those under threat of homelessness, rough sleepers, 'sofa surfers'
- Prevalence of alcohol use
- Parents who have lost their children into care
- Mental health issues
- Complex contributory factors which require a multi-disciplinary approach