

# Horizon 2050 vision

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## 1. What is Horizon 2050?

Horizon 2050 is a long-term community and place-focused vision for the future of our borough. It paints a clear picture of the type of place residents, businesses and partners wish Basingstoke and Deane to be in 30 years' time.

Horizon 2050 was developed through extensive research, engagement and consultation, and it sets the foundations for far-reaching decisions about the future of Basingstoke and Deane.

Horizon 2050 is not a council strategy or policy but it is a robust evidence-based document that reflects the views of our residents, businesses and partners. It provides a framework and road map to inform policy-making, to plan for the future development of the borough and to continue to make Basingstoke and Deane a great place to live.

On the journey to 2050, there will be some obvious tensions in some of the aspirations described in the vision. Enabling growth while preserving the character of the borough will raise questions that key partners will need to address when developing their strategies, policies and plans.

It is therefore essential that Horizon 2050 is embedded in everything we do. Through close partnership working and engagement with residents and businesses, partners will work together so that any decision for the future of the borough ensures that in 2050 Basingstoke and Deane is an exceptional place where any of us would be happy and proud to call home.

## **2. Horizon 2050 – executive summary**

It is clear that our residents, businesses and partners already think that Basingstoke and Deane is a great place to live, work and visit. Horizon 2050 sets the long-term direction of travel to ensure that we preserve the quality of life and character of our borough and create a sense of place where everyone can live a happy and healthy life in a prospering built and natural environment.

The vision covers eight different themes that reflect the areas that matter and are important to our residents, businesses and partners. Aspects of these themes are covered below and the full vision text is available in the Horizon 2050 vision section.

### **Homes and housing**

The homes that will be built will cover the full spectrum of housing types and ownership. They will meet changing demographic patterns and provide quality, sustainable, accessible and affordable homes for all. Infrastructure such as roads, utilities, schools and community facilities will be planned and delivered alongside or before new housing developments. Where possible, new developments will take place on brownfield sites or previously developed land before using greenfield land.

### **Healthy, safe and inclusive communities**

Our residents will have access to strengthened local health and social care services as well as a major hospital facility to support them to be and live well. These will be complemented by outstanding sports, leisure, cultural and community facilities that will be accessible to all. The safety of our residents will remain a priority. The borough will have a strong sense of community where existing and new residents of all ages and backgrounds can live well and happily together.

### **Natural environment**

Nature will be preserved, nurtured and valued. Priority habitats will be protected and better connected. A network of quality parks and open spaces will provide easy access to nature as well as opportunities for learning and will contribute to wellbeing. There will be a greater understanding and appreciation of the importance of nature and the valued countryside that surrounds urban areas will be protected.

### **Sustainability**

The borough will have a future that is more sustainable and resource-efficient. Targets will be set for air and water quality and our buildings and homes will have exemplary sustainable standards. Our carbon emissions and use of fossil fuels will reduce. Renewable energy will be prevalent, and the borough will generate the energy it uses and will re-use the waste it creates.

### **Transport**

An efficient and rapid public transport network together with safe and quality walking and cycling routes will provide an alternative to the car to link all communities around

Basingstoke to the town centre and essential services. The use of personal vehicles will continue to play a role but new technologies such as electric, hybrid or autonomous vehicle will be encouraged to reduce the environmental impact and deliver better connectivity across the borough.

### **Education**

Our communities will have access to a range of local learning options through a well-planned, adaptable and resilient education provision. Secondary schools will be the first choice for local young people to improve attainment, achievement and wellbeing of students. A new form of higher education provision will be introduced.

### **Economy and entrepreneurship**

Our borough will be a place where residents can learn, work and build a successful career in a range of jobs across all sectors. New or regenerated business areas will provide high quality accommodation for new and small businesses to grow and larger businesses to relocate here. Support services will strengthen innovation and the borough's reputation for high tech industry will be expanded.

### **A borough with heritage and distinction**

The importance of conserving and enriching the borough's history and culture will be recognised and embraced to promote its unique heritage and develop its reputation nationally. Where relevant, new developments and regeneration will be carefully and respectfully integrated with historic areas. Rural settlements will retain their identity as the town grows. Continuing to invest in Basingstoke's town centre will ensure the town remains a vibrant hub.

## **3. Endorsing Horizon 2050**

### Anthony Bravo, Chair of the Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership

It is clear that our residents, businesses and partners think Basingstoke and Deane is a great place to live. Horizon 2050 gives us the opportunity to set bold ambitions and aspirations for the future of our communities.

It paves the way for partners, businesses and residents to work together and plan our future carefully to ensure the borough remains a brilliant place to live, work and play.

There will be challenges along our journey to 2050 but this vision provides us with a clear framework to make good decisions about what is important and right for the future of our borough.

### Cllr Clive Sanders, Leader of the Council

Horizon 2050 provides a vision for the kind of place residents and stakeholders want the borough to be in 30 years' time. It is not a strategy or a policy document. Instead it provides a clear framework of desired outcomes to inform policy making in the

future. Those outcomes will inevitably be modified by consideration of evolving technology, practicality, economic and social change. Nevertheless they are based upon a common focus of the aspirations of our community for what Basingstoke and Deane should be like in the future.

Basingstoke and Deane is by common accord a great place to live, and is so because of the vision and bold decisions taken by our predecessors who made critical long-term decisions in the previous decades. Now we need to make the right far-reaching decisions and put in place the solid foundations necessary for future generations.

This will enable the borough to plan in a timely manner that coordinates the various strands of public services and balances competing pressures where they arise. Having a clear, agreed roadmap for the future will attract inward investment to ensure the right infrastructure is put in place to support the borough to grow prosperously, where all can share in the benefits of that growth.

The Horizon 2050 vision encompasses many elements that make Basingstoke and Deane a great place. Therefore, it is important that organisations providing a variety of services within the borough support its underlying principles for the future development of the borough. The Horizon 2050 vision has been endorsed by the following organisations:

Ayre Chamberlain Gaunt Architects

Basingstoke and Deane Area Strategic Partnership

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Hampshire Chamber of Commerce

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

University of Winchester

#### **4. Introduction**

It's vital for a borough to plan ahead. And it is clear that the continued success of Basingstoke and Deane next month, next year and in the coming decades hinges on the actions taken today, and the plans put in place for tomorrow.

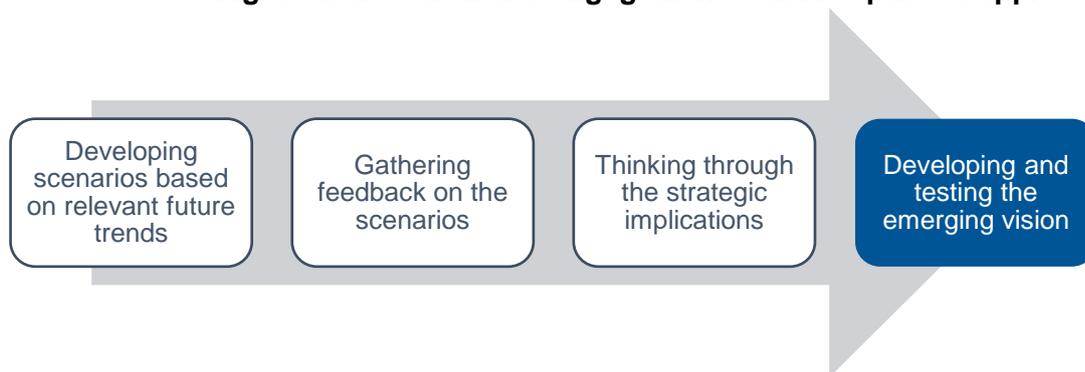
The Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership (BASP), working with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, has developed a long-term vision for the borough of Basingstoke and Deane up to 2050. This vision is called "Horizon 2050".

Through the Horizon 2050 initiative, the aim is to set an ambitious and aspirational shared vision to ensure that the borough is able to grow to meet its population demands whilst maintaining or improving the quality of life enjoyed by residents. It is intended that this vision will be inclusive, taking into account a range of diverse needs, and provide the context for far-reaching policy decisions about the future, setting the direction for the council and other partners' work.

Borough residents' are supportive of the development of a long-term vision and welcomed the opportunity to engage with the process. The research and engagement work for Horizon 2050 was an extensive programme of around 20 events, workshops and 1,101 interviews involving nearly 1,500 residents, local leaders and business owners in 1,400 hours' worth of conversations, covering a variety of topics. Through this work it has been possible to gain an understanding of, and agreement on, what the community wants from the future.

The research and engagement activities undertaken through the Horizon 2050 project have taken place in stages, represented in the diagram below:

**Figure 1: Research and engagement activities phased approach**



The research and engagement activities included a variety of methods to ensure that thoughts were gathered from a wide range of people in a transparent way. This included:

- Qualitative research using workshops and focus groups to gather in-depth opinions
- Meetings with existing interest groups to gain their views on what is important to them
- Consultation open to all residents and organisations to get feedback on the themes and priorities of the vision
- Statistically valid quantitative sample survey

Each of the research and engagement activities provided a sound and robust qualitative and quantitative evidence base for the development of the vision. A

summary of the evidence underpinning the vision is presented in the Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings.

## **5. Background to the Horizon 2050 vision**

Overall, residents are positive about living in Basingstoke and Deane, and the vast majority are satisfied with their local area as a place to live (94%)<sup>1</sup>. Borough residents are statistically happier, feel that the things they do are worthwhile, and have higher levels of life satisfaction than England overall<sup>2</sup>.

There is a clear desire among residents for the borough to be a welcoming, friendly and inclusive place to live, work and visit regardless of an individual's characteristics or background<sup>3</sup>. Recognising that everyone has the potential to be in a position of needing support at some stage in their lives, either as they age, or their health deteriorates or personal circumstances change.

Residents rank levels of crime, shopping facilities and a sense of community as being essential in making somewhere a good place to live and contributing to the borough's sense of place. These are closely followed by clean and litter-free streets, public transport and natural greenspace and wildlife, with parks, sports facilities and access to open countryside frequently mentioned<sup>4</sup>. These findings are broadly in line with those from recent residents' surveys<sup>5</sup>.

However, five key aspects are seen as being most in need of improvement; road repairs, health services, public transport, education provision and affordable<sup>6</sup> housing of which only the last is strictly speaking a district council responsibility<sup>7</sup>. These aspects are generally the aspects which residents across the country cite as being in most need of improvement – so in this respect, Basingstoke and Deane is not unique<sup>8</sup>.

Predicting the future is uncertain, and it is impossible to know exactly what Basingstoke and Deane will look like in 2050. However, there is no doubt that the

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<sup>1</sup> Basingstoke and Deane residents' survey, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Estimates of life satisfaction, feeling that the things done in life are worthwhile, happiness and anxiety at the UK, country, regional and local authority level, ONS April 2017 to March 2018.

<sup>3</sup> The nine 'protected characteristics' identified in the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, race, sex, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief (or lack of belief), and sexual orientation. Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q22, P51.

<sup>4</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q1, P8.

<sup>5</sup> The top four most important aspects in making somewhere a good place to live were affordable housing, health services, clean and litter free streets, and the level of crime and anti-social behaviour. Basingstoke and Deane residents' survey, 2017.

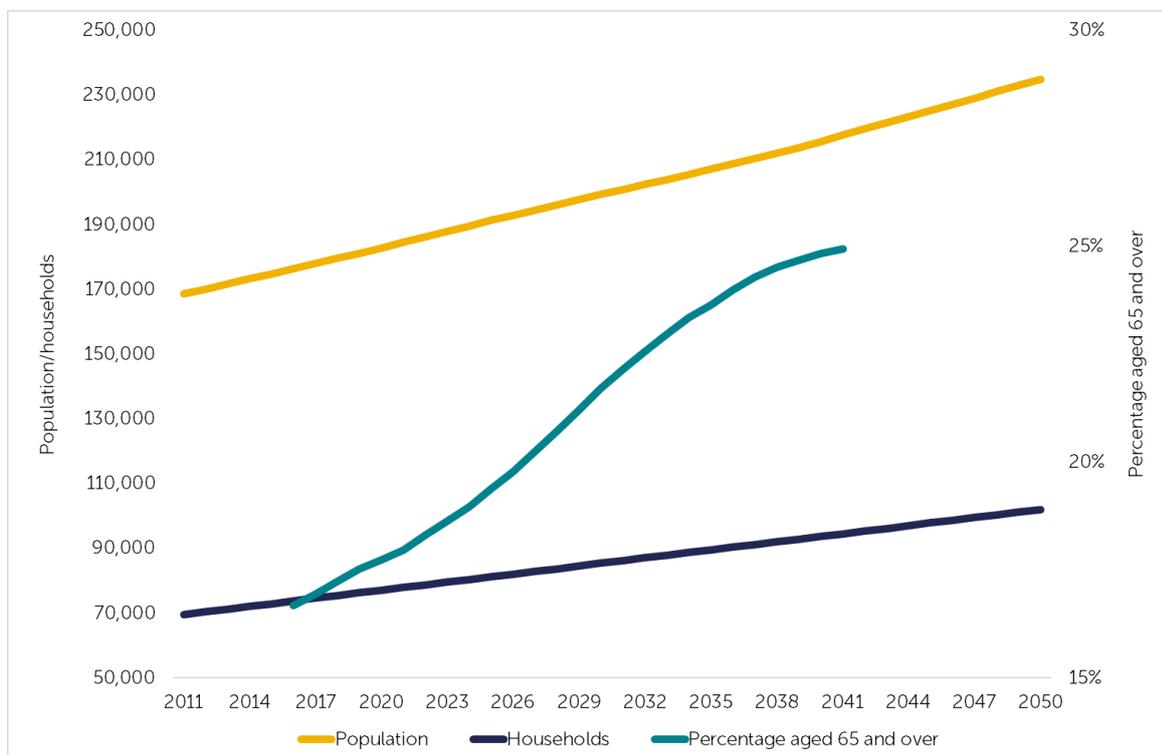
<sup>6</sup> This may refer to cheaper market housing, social housing or a combination of both, depending on how the phrase "affordable housing" was understood by participants.

<sup>7</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q3, P12.

<sup>8</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q3, P12.

population of the borough will continue to grow - the delivery of 850 dwellings per year (the current Local Plan figure) from 2011 to 2050 would suggest a population of around 235,000 by 2050, living in 104,000 dwellings. If dwelling delivery increased to 1,000 dwellings per year from 2011 to 2050 then this would suggest a population of around 248,000 by 2050 and 110,000 dwellings<sup>9</sup>. The population will also continue to age, currently 17% are aged 65 and over<sup>10</sup> and this is projected to rise to over a quarter of the population by 2050<sup>11</sup> (Figure 2). With increasing age, also comes the need for more specialist and complex service provision, particularly in relation to disability and access needs.

**Figure 2: Total population, number of households and percentage of the population aged 65 and over (based on growth of 850 dwellings per year)**



As the borough continues to grow, a key challenge will be to ensure that the aspects that residents value are not eroded by this growth and that services and facilities adapt in line with growth and the ageing population. This includes maintaining levels of safety and community cohesion, enabling all residents to live in affordable high quality housing, and ensuring adequate and accessible facilities for health care, education and public and private transport networks, whilst supporting the natural and historic environment to thrive. The Town and Country Planning Association

<sup>9</sup> Total population derived from the dwelling figure by taking account of vacancy rates, average household size and institutional population. BDBC internal projections, 2017.

<sup>10</sup> ONS, mid-year population estimates, 2017.

<sup>11</sup> ONS, subnational population projections, 2016-based (25% aged 65 and over by 2041).

Garden Town Principles will be incorporated into future plans to ensure the delivery of a high-quality place<sup>12</sup>.

Desk research and expert interviews with organisations such as NESTA<sup>13</sup>, Arup<sup>14</sup> and the IPPR<sup>15</sup> revealed that technological change, the ageing population, and climate change and sustainability are the three trends that will have most of an impact locally in the period leading up to 2050<sup>16</sup>.

- Technological change could include wearable devices, continued use of big data, artificial intelligence and robotics, including driverless cars.
- Across the UK, the number of people aged 65 and over will likely double by 2050 to reach about one in four of the population. This will have implications for public services, communities and intergenerational relationships.
- The effects of climate change will be evident through extreme weather conditions, higher sea levels, and heat waves. This could lead to temperature rises and increased flood risk in the UK.

## **6. Developing the Horizon 2050 vision**

Through the extensive programme of around 20 events, workshops and 1,101 interviews involving nearly 1,500 residents, local leaders and business owners in 1,400 hours' worth of conversations, covering a variety of topics; it has been possible to gain an understanding of, and agreement on, what the community wants from the future.

This research and engagement programme has included talking to a cross section of residents representing different sexes, ages, ethnicity, social grade, employment

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<sup>12</sup> The Garden City Principles are an indivisible and interlocking framework for their delivery, and include: land value capture for the benefit of the community; strong vision, leadership and community engagement; community ownership of land and long-term stewardship of assets; mixed-tenure homes and housing types that are genuinely affordable; a wide range of local jobs in the Garden City within easy commuting distance of homes; beautifully and imaginatively designed homes with gardens, combining the best of town and country to create healthy communities, and including opportunities to grow food; development that enhances the natural environment, providing a comprehensive green infrastructure network and net biodiversity gains, and that uses zero-carbon and energy-positive technology to ensure climate resilience; strong cultural, recreational and shopping facilities in walkable, vibrant, sociable neighbourhoods; integrated and accessible transport systems, with walking, cycling and public transport designed to be the most attractive forms of local transport.

<sup>13</sup> Nesta is a global innovation foundation, its aim is to back new ideas that tackle the big challenges of our time, from the pressures of an ageing population to stretched public services and a fast changing jobs market.

<sup>14</sup> Arup is an independent firm of designers, planners, engineers, consultants and technical specialists, working across every aspect of today's built environment.

<sup>15</sup> IPPR is a registered charity and the UK's pre-eminent progressive think tank.

<sup>16</sup> Horizon 2050 macro trends desk research, March and April 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P16); Ipsos MORI Global Trends Survey, 2017.

statuses and rural and urban areas within the borough through workshops, a consultation questionnaire and a telephone sample survey. In addition to engagement with businesses and interest groups.

From this process a set of vision themes have been produced – Homes and housing; Healthy, safe and inclusive communities; Natural environment; Sustainability; Transport; Education; Economy and entrepreneurship; and A borough with heritage and distinction. All of the themes are equally important and there are overlaps between them (Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Horizon 2050 vision themes**



## **7. The Horizon 2050 vision**

### **Homes and housing**

To meet future demand there is a need to build more homes. These homes must cover a full spectrum of house types and ownership to meet residents' aspirations but also to ensure that good quality housing is available. They should be built to meet a range of access needs and be affordable to all. These homes must reflect the changing demographic patterns, in particular an ageing population and changing work patterns. This means homes must be appropriately sized and equipped to meet the needs of different household types, built to a high standard of low energy usage, water consumption and waste disposal, and architecturally reflect the character of the area. Infrastructure such as roads, broadband, schools and community facilities will be planned and delivered before, or at least alongside, housing development, to ensure that residents continue to benefit from top-class services and facilities that contribute to the overall sense of place. Where possible, new development will take place on brown field sites and previously developed land, in addition to much needed regeneration, in preference to greenfield sites. However, these sites will not be exclusively for housing use and greenfield sites will need to be used.

### **Healthy, safe and inclusive communities**

Being healthy is key to maintaining a good quality of life. The borough must be a place where healthy inequalities are reduced so that residents enjoy good physical and mental wellbeing and are healthier for longer. Strengthened health and social care services and local health centres, must support residents to be and live well and adapt to specific needs, impairments and health conditions. This will be complemented by outstanding sports, leisure, culture and community facilities, that are accessible to all, physically, geographically and financially, and which continue to incorporate local provision alongside major attractions. The borough must also continue to be home to a major hospital facility to provide specialist treatment and care for ill health. The safety of residents will continue to be valued and expressed through the borough's commitment for communities to offer an inclusive, cohesive and friendly place to live for everyone. The maintenance of community safety will continue to be a priority. Building and enhancing a strong sense of community in new and existing developments will have equal importance. Regeneration efforts will breathe new life and soul into ageing neighbourhoods without compromising local communities. As the local demography changes, the needs of the growing number of older residents will be balanced with the creation of opportunities for the young, support for families and help for those that need it.

### **Natural environment**

Nature is recognised as having its own value and worth, including land, waterways, flora and fauna. In the future, priority habitats will be protected, less fragmented and

better connected. Developed areas will be integrated with green spaces and, where appropriate, a careful distinction will be made between amenity space and precious habitats. Maintaining easy access for everyone to nature and a network of quality parks and open spaces is also a priority and there will be a much greater understanding and appreciation of the importance of nature in communities with opportunities for learning, involvement and enhancing wellbeing. This includes the protection of the valued countryside that surrounds the urban areas.

## **Sustainability**

The borough will work towards a future that is more sustainable, energy, waste and water efficient. Challenging targets will be set for improving local air and water quality, and building homes, workplaces and infrastructure to exemplary sustainable standards using green technologies. To facilitate this, carbon emissions will be reduced and the use of fossil fuels will be limited in order to slow the effects of climate change and reduce the borough's carbon footprint. Partners will work together to create a place renowned for renewable energy, generating all the energy we use and consuming the waste we create.

## **Transport**

The use of personal vehicles will continue to play a role in the way we live and good easily accessible parking in the town will remain a key feature, particularly to serve the needs of rural residents. New types of technology to promote electric, hybrid and autonomous vehicle use will be encouraged, to lower the environmental impact, while improving infrastructure to deliver better connectivity across the borough and outwards to national and international connections. To ensure residents can move around freely in urban areas, a rapid, safe, public transport system will provide an affordable alternative to car travel, that is accessible to people with a range of access needs. A safe network of quality walking and cycling routes will provide a healthy alternative to vehicular transport. The transport network will link all communities around Basingstoke to the town centre and essential services within the borough, such as the hospital and train station, within 20 minutes.

## **Education**

Promoting a stronger, more adaptable and resilient local education system is an integral part of the Horizon 2050 vision. Well-planned provision will be delivered from birth through adulthood, adapted to a range of learning styles and access needs to support a variety of interests and future careers. Primary schools will be local to all communities. Secondary schools must develop to become the first choice for local young people, improving the attainment, achievement and well-being of young people and students. A new form of higher university-level education will be introduced, linking students with local employers and encouraging a growth in technical skills.

## **Economy and entrepreneurship**

Maintaining a range of jobs across all sectors while strengthening the innovation culture and attracting inward investment remains a priority. Partners will work to strike a balance between developing new business areas and regenerating existing economic hubs. While the borough will continue to be a great residential location for commuters, residents will have the opportunity to build a range of careers in the borough, with access to relevant and future proof education and training and the opportunity of high skilled jobs. Action will be taken to address barriers to employment. New and small businesses will be encouraged with support to grow and expand through the provision of high quality accommodation and services. Large businesses will be encouraged to relocate here and continue to operate within the borough. The opportunity to build on the borough's reputation for high tech industry will be expanded, in recognition of the contribution this can make to the borough's image of an interesting and inspiring place to do business.

## **A borough with heritage and distinction**

A distinctive feature of the borough that is vital for its sense of place is its combination of historic village and town centres surrounded by countryside, alongside its 1960s expansion and more recent additions. The importance of conserving and enriching the borough's history and culture will be recognised and embraced to promote its unique heritage and develop its reputation nationally. This includes increased understanding, access to and enjoyment of the heritage assets as part of the borough's cultural offering and ensuring that they are not at risk of neglect or decay. Where relevant, new developments and regeneration will be carefully and respectfully integrated with historic areas and will take opportunities to use historic buildings as focal points to help ensure they have a sensitive and viable future. As the borough continues to grow, the identity and separateness of rural settlements will be protected from urban sprawl. Meanwhile, continuing to invest in Basingstoke town centre, building on different strengths and unique identities, and introducing individuality, will ensure the town remains a vibrant hub and a place to be proud of.

## **Evidence underpinning the Horizon 2050 vision**

This section presents a summary of the evidence that underpins each of the vision themes. The full evidence base underpinning the vision is available in the three supporting documents: Horizon 2050 Research and Engagement summary of findings, Horizon 2050 consultation summary report of findings, and Horizon 2050 sample survey summary report of findings available at:

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/horizon2050>

Each of these sources provide high-level snapshot conclusions on the current opinion of borough residents, businesses and stakeholders. It is not possible to make decisions using the level of detailed reported in this evidence base. Therefore, when future policies and strategies are developed, it will be necessary to undertake further detailed topic specific work.

## **Homes and housing**

The borough will need to equip itself with the tools to meet the housing needs of a growing and changing population. 72% of residents in the borough embrace the idea of future growth<sup>17</sup>, provided that it is well thought out, managed and existing residents feel the benefit through improved local infrastructure<sup>18</sup>.

Residents feel that it is important that housing satisfies local needs and addresses issues of affordability, ensuring appropriate and accessible homes for everyone, including housing that is affordable to social and private rent or buy for younger people and growing families and housing that is accessible for disabled people and older people, such as bungalows. They also feel that new homes should be sufficiently flexible and adaptable to suit modern living, changing work patterns and individual needs<sup>19</sup>.

Creating homes that are more sustainable to build and live in was of interest to residents and something that they felt the borough could become known for<sup>20</sup>. A challenge will be whether the existing housing stock can be sufficiently adapted and improved in order to become more sustainable.

Many comments focused on the need to provide vital infrastructure in advance of new housing development, for the benefit of new and existing residents<sup>21</sup>. This includes transport networks, local services and facilities.

Regarding where new housing should be located, just under half of residents (48%) believe that new housing should be built in and around Basingstoke town. A third of residents think that new housing should be built in and around existing rural communities (30%); and/or by creating new towns or villages within the borough (29%). A handful of residents believe that no new homes are needed (1%). Residents were able to choose more than one option for where new housing should be located<sup>22</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q2, P10.

<sup>18</sup> Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q8, P9; Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P53).

<sup>19</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q3, P12; Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q10, P11; Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P53).

<sup>20</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P53).

<sup>21</sup> Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q10, P11.

<sup>22</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q4, P21.

Despite being able to select more than one option, the vast majority of participants (82%) only selected one option. Of those that made only one selection, 48% chose in and around Basingstoke town, 26% chose in and around existing rural communities and 26% selected by creating new towns or villages<sup>23</sup>.

Where residents selected multiple options, 64% chose in and around Basingstoke town and in and around existing rural communities. 62% chose in and around Basingstoke town and by creating new towns or villages, and 44% chose in and around existing rural communities and by creating new towns or villages. Just 4% of respondents selected all three options and preferred building new housing across all location types<sup>24</sup>.

Of those who said they would like to see new homes built within Basingstoke town, most (79%) would like to have such homes built on existing brownfield sites. Just one in ten (10%) residents would like to see new homes built on greenfield sites. Around one in twelve (8%) would like to see new homes built on both brownfield and greenfield sites within the town and on the outskirts<sup>25</sup>.

It was suggested that, over time, there may be opportunities to redevelop employment sites for housing, particularly where they do not meet modern business needs or are poorly located<sup>26</sup>. However, this will need to be balanced with ensuring that residents have opportunities to find jobs locally and replacement greenfield, brownfield and previously developed sites becoming available in locations convenient to businesses and their employees.

When challenged, residents and partners understand that brownfield development – while an important first source of land for new housing – will not come near to providing sufficient opportunities to provide the housing the borough's population needs, especially as we will be striving to maintain the borough's sense of character and its cherished open spaces<sup>27</sup>. A clear tension is the desire to provide homes versus the reluctance to build on greenfield land.

Those who believe that new housing should be built in and around existing rural communities were asked if such developments should be spread across rural areas, or if development should be focussed in larger rural communities. The majority (70%) of those who would like to see new homes built in rural areas would prefer such homes to be spread across rural areas, rather than being concentrated in specific areas<sup>28</sup>.

Ultimately, residents and stakeholders see that it is vital to balance housing growth by adopting a mixed-use development approach — working on new brownfield sites, regenerating existing areas, building on the edge of Basingstoke town, supporting

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<sup>23</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q4, P21.

<sup>24</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q4, P21.

<sup>25</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q5, P24.

<sup>26</sup> Land and property group, November 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P71).

<sup>27</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, September 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P84); Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q11, P12.

<sup>28</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q6, P26.

locally led growth in our smaller towns and villages and exploring options for new settlements.

### **Healthy, safe and inclusive communities**

Partners were keen that people, their health and their well-being should be at the centre of the vision, which means maintaining and enhancing the quality of life that is readily enjoyed by many residents<sup>29</sup>. This includes having strong and connected communities, well designed neighbourhoods, and good housing, education, employment, transport, open spaces, leisure facilities and air quality to support the wider determinants of health, as well as the facilities to support those experiencing ill health.

Looking forward, healthcare systems face huge challenges in delivering high-quality, accessible care, often to ageing populations that are getting bigger and have a growing prevalence of long-term conditions<sup>30</sup>.

The collective desire among partners who influence health and social care systems is to help people ‘to live long, healthy and happy lives, with the maximum possible independence. Narrowing the gap in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy, to ensure that those living longer are healthier for longer. Making best use of the limited resources to improve outcomes and resilience for people of all ages, so that children have the best start in life and that people have choice, control and dignity at all stages of life including at the end of life’<sup>31</sup>.

Partners propose to do this by working better together to:

- Help people to look after themselves and stay well
- Help people with severe, long-term conditions to manage their healthcare more easily
- Improve services for urgent issues that need attention on the day, as well as for emergencies
- Make it easier to see specialists – like mental health workers and physiotherapists
- Provide better support for older people so they can live independently in their own homes for longer

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<sup>29</sup> Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q28, P31 and P48; Horizon 2050 business workshop, June 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P157).

Horizon 2050 macro trends desk research, March and April 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P157).

<sup>31</sup> Draft Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy, 2019 to 2024.

- Modernise our hospitals<sup>32</sup>

When thinking about the future of healthcare in the borough, almost all residents (99%) think retaining of major NHS hospital in the borough is a good idea, a view that is held universally across all subgroups. An enthusiastic nine in ten (92%) residents think it is a very good idea<sup>33</sup>.

Residents were concerned about current gaps in GP service provision and their ability to access these services in a timely manner as the borough grows<sup>34</sup>. The majority support (69%) having access to more NHS services online, although not everyone is in agreement and almost one in five (17%) say it is a bad idea. When asked about having fewer but larger GP practises with a wider offering of services than current exists, around half of residents (53%) say it is a good idea. In comparison, a third (33%) disagree, saying it is a bad idea<sup>35</sup>.

People want to ensure that communities are fully inclusive and cohesive so that everyone has the equal opportunity to thrive, irrespective of who they are and their individual circumstances<sup>36</sup>. There is a strong commitment to the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion. Residents wanted the borough to be known as a great place to bring up children, but also to grow old in. This includes ensuring that young people and older residents have appropriate facilities and activities available to them and that disabled people, older people and those with other specific needs have the right support in place<sup>37</sup>. Residents did not raise concerns about different residents not getting on well together and recent residents' surveys confirm that residents' feel the borough is a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together (71%)<sup>38</sup>. As the borough grows, a strong effort will be maintained to ensure that there is harmony in our communities.

The level of crime of and anti-social behaviour is the most frequently mentioned aspect of making somewhere a good place to live (26%)<sup>39</sup>. While being something that is valued by residents, safety concerns are not an issue for borough residents as something that needs improving<sup>40</sup> because there is already a high level of safety satisfaction. Feedback from the 2017 residents survey records that 98% of residents felt safe when outside in their local during the day and 90% after dark. The latter result has shown a significant increase in recent resident surveys and is also

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<sup>32</sup> North Hampshire Health and Care Transformation Plan, 2018 to 2023.

<sup>33</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q19, P48.

<sup>34</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, September 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P81); Horizon 2050 staff workshop (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P131); Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q8, P10.

<sup>35</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q19, P48.

<sup>36</sup> Horizon 2050 business workshop, June 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P152); Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q22, P51.

<sup>37</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q22, P51.

<sup>38</sup> Basingstoke and Deane residents' survey, 2017.

<sup>39</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q1, P8.

<sup>40</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q3, P12.

significantly higher than the England average of 79% (2016/2017)<sup>41</sup>. These statistics on feeling safe are very positive, but should not detract from the recognition that there are known crime and antisocial behaviour issues locally than need to be addressed. It will be necessary to monitor and consider reviewing police and community safety support services so that residents continue to feel safe and provision adapts as the borough grows.

A sense of community was the third most mentioned aspect in making somewhere a good place to live (25% of residents) and was a popular spontaneous mention in what residents would like the borough to be known for in 2050<sup>42</sup>.

Care must be taken to ensure the sense of community is maintained in existing developments and that it is encouraged and supported in new ones, partially through the continued provision of current and additional social infrastructure so that no one feels left out.

Residents were asked what if anything would be most important when improving areas of Basingstoke town. The three aspects they most often cited are building more affordable housing (52%), creating more green space (39%), and providing more community facilities (38%). Residents could choose more than one response option<sup>43</sup>.

When asked about leisure and community facilities in the borough, just over half of residents (53%) agree there should be a larger number of smaller, more basic leisure facilities in local communities (statement B). Comparatively, slightly more than a third (37%) would prefer a smaller number of larger, higher quality facilities even if it means some people will have to travel further (statement A)<sup>44</sup>.

This means that residents believe that larger community facilities should not be provided at the expense of local ones. What's key for residents is maintaining a balance of high quality but sufficiently local activities. Equally, updating, expanding and improving upon these facilities is seen as a vital element of any future growth<sup>45</sup>.

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<sup>41</sup> Basingstoke and Deane residents' survey, 2017; LGA resident satisfaction survey 2016/2017.

<sup>42</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q1, P8 and Q22, P51.

<sup>43</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q7, P28.

<sup>44</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q21, P32.

<sup>45</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q22, P51; Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q8, P9.

## Natural environment

The borough of Basingstoke and Deane covers an area of more than 245 square miles of north Hampshire, over 90% of which is rural — predominantly agricultural with significant areas of woodland<sup>46</sup>.

The borough has a range of green spaces and natural assets, including Green Flag-awarded parks in the heart of Basingstoke; Pamber Forest (Site of Special Scientific Interest); some precious wildlife habitats; registered parks and gardens; a network of public rights of way; and publicly accessible open countryside areas and the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)<sup>47</sup>. 806 hectares of the borough (1.3%) have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (the highest level of environmental protection) and there are over 800 protected and notable species within the borough, that have statutory protection or are recognised as needing special conservation effort.

Many people and organisations involved in the Horizon 2050 project believed that the natural environment was a key strength for the borough, that it supports a diverse mix of wildlife and habitats, and therefore is recognised as having its own intrinsic value or worth, and right to exist, that is separate from any value placed on it by humans. Local green spaces are also enjoyed and valued by communities, offering opportunities for education, recreation and developing health and wellbeing, which has scope to be expanded upon<sup>48</sup>.

Key interest groups believe that a healthy natural environment is a pre-requisite for human health and wellbeing and the economy and places a responsibility on every individual, organisation and business to be better informed of environmental issues<sup>49</sup>.

A key challenge raised by local stakeholders focusses on how it will be possible to understand the impact of future growth on natural capital, biological systems and ecosystem services and how we can mitigate against it, ensuring that individuals, communities, societies, businesses and economies utilise resources and ecosystem

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<sup>46</sup> ONS Built Up Areas, 2011; OS Mastermap, 2017.

<sup>47</sup> Basingstoke and Deane Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2013 to 2029.

<sup>48</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P54); Horizon 2050 resident workshops, September 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P80); Horizon 2050 environment workshop, December 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P125); Horizon 2050 environment workshop, May 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P142); Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q19, P20.

<sup>49</sup> Horizon 2050 environment workshop, December 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P125); Horizon 2050 environment workshop, May 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P142).

services efficiently, restoring or replacing what is used to work to deliver net gains, and living within local, national or planetary limits<sup>50</sup>.

The rural beauty and greenness of our borough are also two of our most important characteristics, regularly mentioned during resident workshops<sup>51</sup> and quantified in the sample survey, with natural green space and wildlife (20%), parks and open spaces (16%) and access to the countryside (12%) listed amongst the most important aspects in making somewhere a good place to live<sup>52</sup>.

Most residents believe that it is essential (41%) or very important (43%) for people and organisations to work together to reduce environmental impact locally<sup>53</sup>.

In order to build a more sustainable borough and one that lives within its environmental limits it will be necessary to fully assess the impact that growth will have on our air, water, soils and biodiversity. It will be important to move towards a future that not only minimises the impact growth is having, but to one that compensates for growth through replacement, mitigation and offsetting in other areas to eventually bring that impact down to a minimum, seeking to deliver net gains, and allowing remaining natural systems to reach sustainable levels for all<sup>54</sup>.

Key interest groups suggest that working towards a greater understanding of our natural landscape types, soils, habitats and species will identify deficits and opportunities for restoration, enlargement and connection<sup>55</sup>.

It has been suggested that ecological networks will need connections, for example, between ancient woodlands or heathlands and it will be necessary to work with landowner partnerships to introduce extensive and well-planned green corridors across the borough and linked to areas outside to create an ecosystem where priority species can be better monitored and restored to achieve better distribution, greater mobility, abundance and viability, including through urban and rural hedgerow management and provision<sup>56</sup>.

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<sup>50</sup> Horizon 2050 environment workshop, December 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P125); Horizon 2050 environment workshop, May 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P142).

<sup>51</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P54); Horizon 2050 resident workshops, September 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P80).

<sup>52</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q1, P8.

<sup>53</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q14, P37.

<sup>54</sup> Horizon 2050 environment workshop, December 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P125); Horizon 2050 environment workshop, May 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P142).

<sup>55</sup> Horizon 2050 environment workshop, December 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P125); Horizon 2050 environment workshop, May 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P142).

<sup>56</sup> Horizon 2050 environment workshop, December 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P125); Horizon 2050 environment workshop, May 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P142).

## Sustainability

It's clear that climate change is one of the most important challenges that will have to be faced in the next 50 years, with the potential for temperature rises and increased risk of flooding<sup>57</sup>.

Residents and partners believe that it is important that we act together to reverse its impacts. There is the motivation, capacity and opportunity to lower fossil fuel consumption, reduce emissions, harness greener energy generation and use it efficiently<sup>58</sup>. This is also in line with national government policy.

Residents and partners also feel that it is important to reduce the production of waste and pollutants as well as reducing the consumption of non-renewable raw materials and renewable materials to sustainable levels<sup>59</sup>. There is a desire to be known as a borough that has exemplary sustainability standards, in terms of how energy, waste, housing and infrastructure systems operate<sup>60</sup>. Including that new buildings should be built using green technologies and be able to generate renewable energy<sup>61</sup>.

Water pressure and supply as well as quality and efficiency was also highlighted as an area of concern as the borough expands, ensuring that the infrastructure is available to deliver a high quality water supply to all residents and protect the borough's natural water sources<sup>62</sup>.

Achieving these standards will have an impact on the way residents live their lives. In an effort to reduce their impact on the environment, almost three quarters of residents say they are likely to use less electricity (73%) and water (72%) in future. Around two-thirds (64%) would be likely to switch to a local renewable energy

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<sup>57</sup> Horizon 2050 macro trends desk research, March and April 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P17).

<sup>58</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P54); Horizon 2050 BASP conference, October 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P97); Horizon 2050 low carbon workshop, May 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P132); Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q23, P25.

<sup>59</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P54); Horizon 2050 BASP conference, October 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P97); Horizon 2050 low carbon workshop, May 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P132); Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q22, P24.

<sup>60</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P54); Horizon 2050 low carbon workshop, May 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P132).

<sup>61</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P54); Horizon 2050 BASP conference, October 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P98); Horizon 2050 low carbon workshop, May 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P140); Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q21, P25.

<sup>62</sup> Horizon 2050 BASP conference, October 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P107); Horizon 2050 environment workshop, May 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P125); Horizon 2050 staff workshop (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P132); Horizon 2050 low carbon workshop, May 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P134); Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q22, P39.

source. However, around a quarter of residents say they are not likely to make these changes in each case (25%, 25% and 28% respectively). Travelling less by car is more polarising among residents, with the same proportion saying they are likely to make this change (47%) as saying unlikely (47%)<sup>63</sup>.

Most residents are supportive of solar farms (77%), and around two-thirds support ground or air source heat pumps (67%), wind farms (64%) and anaerobic digesters (63%)<sup>64</sup>. Whilst these results may be surprising, respondents to the consultation felt that opposition to renewable energy in the past has been made by a vocal minority<sup>65</sup>.

Fewer than one in ten oppose solar farms, ground or air source heat pumps and anaerobic digesters (9%, 6%, and 9% respectively). Around a fifth of residents have no feelings either way about anaerobic digesters and ground or air source heat pumps (21% and 20% respectively), possibly indicative of a lack of knowledge about these types of energy sources. Wind farms receive higher levels of opposition, with a fifth (20%) saying they oppose the introduction of wind farms in Basingstoke and Deane<sup>66</sup>.

Older residents are much more likely than their younger counterparts to oppose the introduction of windfarms in the borough (while approaching two-fifths (38%) of residents aged 65 and over, and a fifth (21%) of residents aged between 55 and 64 oppose the introduction of wind farms, only around one in twelve (8%) of residents aged under 35 are negative about this renewable energy source being introduced in the borough)<sup>67</sup>. This is echoed in the importance those aged under 25 place on ensuring buildings are environmentally sustainable when redeveloping areas of Basingstoke town, with 48% saying it is important, compared to 30% of all residents<sup>68</sup>.

Advances in technology over time, generational shifts and changing norms may continue to make these energy options more attractive but there is a clear tension to be resolved between the desire to utilise natural energy resources and the potential local impact.

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<sup>63</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q15, P39.

<sup>64</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q17, P43.

<sup>65</sup> Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q23, P25.

<sup>66</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q17, P43.

<sup>67</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q17, P43.

<sup>68</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q7, P28.

## Transport

Residents and businesses alike believe that maintaining and expanding an excellent transport system is vital to the creation of a greener and healthier borough<sup>69</sup>. Simply put, transport is a massive part of day-to-day life in Basingstoke and Deane.

Within the town and beyond, residents and partners believe that a new local transport system could help people travel from the edges of town to the centre quickly. Extensive improvements and thoughtful additions to both local and rural transport systems should continue to give residents access to reliable and accessible means of transport<sup>70</sup>.

Affordable prices (57%), frequency (53%) and reliability (49%) are the most important considerations for residents when deciding whether or not to use public transport in the borough. Affordability is particularly important for residents who live in Basingstoke town and for young people<sup>71</sup>.

People were keen to see an extensive network of cycling and walking routes that create a pleasant and convenient alternative transport network that links to essential services, into Basingstoke town, to where people live and work, and to key transport hubs<sup>72</sup>.

People want to continue to move around the borough freely and quickly on great quality roads, pathways and public transport. But with the addition of new homes in the period leading up to 2050, the demands on our local transport system will increase, as modelled by Hampshire County Council. Without appropriate and significant interventions, transport conditions will deteriorate and there is only limited space to make physical improvements in some locations in order to increase capacity. This would adversely influence the attractiveness of Basingstoke and Deane as a great place to live and work including incentivising further investment here<sup>73</sup>.

When asked about a scenario where parking was not available in the town centre, two-thirds of residents (64%) would go elsewhere, with almost half (47%) holding this

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<sup>69</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q1, P8 and Q3, P12; Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q16, P17 and Q17, P19; Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P52); Horizon 2050 resident workshops, September 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P85); Horizon 2050 low carbon workshop, May 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P132).

<sup>70</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q1, P8 and Q3, P12; Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q16, P17 and Q17, P19; (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P52); Horizon 2050 resident workshops, September 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P85).

<sup>71</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q13, P35.

<sup>72</sup> Horizon 2050 BASP workshop, October 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P97); Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q16, P17; Horizon 2050 environment workshop, May 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P148).

<sup>73</sup> Basingstoke transport strategy consultation emerging strategy framework, November 2018.

view strongly. Around a quarter (24%) disagree that parking in the town centre is important and would not go elsewhere. While the survey does not ascertain why this might be, possible reasons include that some people may not use or have access to a car, or may live close enough to walk, and others may rarely, if ever visit the town centre<sup>74</sup>.

The transport sector is experiencing unprecedented change and new technologies, in particular, are changing the way that people access transport services, including instantly available information on travel options via smartphones, the arrival of new mobility providers and app-based bike hire schemes. Widespread innovations are influencing how people choose to travel and these will impact on future mobility choices. In time, many people could eventually move from owning cars to summoning autonomous vehicles for their journeys<sup>75</sup>. This will bring its own challenges in terms of where these vehicles are stored when not in use.

There is a tension between the sustainable aspirations of the borough and the current reliance of predominately fossil fuelled vehicles. This will need to be mitigated as the borough continues to grow.

Given the early stage of these technologies, it is difficult to predict what impact they will have. It could result in reduced car usage as more people are enabled to choose walking, cycling and public transport. Equally though it could increase the number of vehicles on the road as people choose to access cars for journeys rather than own them themselves<sup>76</sup> and open up car use to those unable to drive themselves, such as some people with certain physical and mental impairments<sup>77</sup>.

Despite these uncertainties, there is likely to be more travel overall, which will place increased pressures on Basingstoke's transport system. It will therefore be important to develop a transport strategy that proactively and flexibly plans for the future, whilst seeking to future proof as far as possible<sup>78</sup>. The draft transport strategy outcomes are to increase public transport patronage and walking and cycling; minimise the overall growth in car travel; maintain journey times and reliability on key routes; and achieve higher levels of accessibility to local jobs and services<sup>79</sup>.

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<sup>74</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q12, P34.

<sup>75</sup> Basingstoke transport strategy consultation emerging strategy framework, November 2018.

<sup>76</sup> Basingstoke transport strategy consultation emerging strategy framework, November 2018.

<sup>77</sup> Horizon 2050 macro trends desk research, March/April 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P20).

<sup>78</sup> Basingstoke transport strategy consultation emerging strategy framework, November 2018.

<sup>79</sup> Basingstoke transport strategy consultation emerging strategy framework, November 2018.

## Education

Education within the borough can be good, and sometimes outstanding; the profile of local schools is improving, as are the standards of attainment<sup>80</sup>. But it's also evident that more must be done.

Across the borough residents and businesses are concerned that the standards for learning are not yet good enough to equip residents with the skills they need for their careers. This is particularly the case for secondary education in certain areas of Basingstoke<sup>81</sup>.

When asked about the idea of local children being able to attend the same school between the ages of 4 to 18, fewer than half (46%) think it is a good idea. A third (32%) think it is a bad idea while a fifth of residents are ambivalent, saying it is neither good nor bad (18%)<sup>82</sup>. A question on whether schools for those aged 11 to 18 would be a good idea was not included but indications are that this would be of interest, as satisfaction with education for those aged 16 and over in the borough stands at 85%, compared to 71% for secondary schools<sup>83</sup>, and adding sixth form education to secondary provision can improve standards.

The idea of investing in fewer schools with better facilities, even if it means some children travel further to school was the least popular suggestion among residents, with over half (56%) saying it is a bad idea. Still, three in ten (29%) are supportive, saying it is a fairly or very good idea<sup>84</sup>. This suggests support for local schools in preference to larger schools and highlights the tension in the potential trade-off required to deliver better school education through increased scale and improved facilities verses longer travel times.

The opportunity to use the planned development at Manydown and Western Basingstoke to help raise ambitions and transform the wider education and skills ecosystem within the town is one that must be grasped. Almost all stakeholders and community members share this ambition<sup>85</sup>.

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<sup>80</sup> Department for Education National curriculum assessments: key stage 2, 2017; Department for Education Revised GCSE and equivalent results in England, 2016 to 2017.

<sup>81</sup> Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q25, P27; Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P57); Horizon 2050 advisory group, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P70), Horizon 2050 sample survey, Q3, P12.

<sup>82</sup> Horizon 2050 sample survey, summer 2018, Q18, P46.

<sup>83</sup> Basingstoke and Deane residents' survey, 2017. Excludes respondents that had never used the service or had no opinion.

<sup>84</sup> Horizon 2050 sample survey, summer 2018, Q18, P46.

<sup>85</sup> Western Basingstoke Higher Education Capacity Study, February 2018.

Residents and businesses believe the scope of the current curriculum, a lack of higher education in the borough, and barriers to residents developing life skills is holding back the local economy from reaching its full potential<sup>86</sup>.

Most (80%) residents' support having university degree level courses available within the borough. Over half (55%) believe it is a very good idea, while only around one in twelve (8%) believe it is a bad idea<sup>87</sup>.

With a particular focus on the needs of employers in high-value specialist sectors and the interests of students both young and mature, recent studies have uncovered a significant enthusiasm for, and commitment to, developing a new type of educational environment that will help secure Basingstoke's reputation as a highly skilled, high-growth town<sup>88</sup>.

There was support for ensuring that education is available locally throughout different life stages, made accessible to all and with opportunities available for those wishing to upskill or retrain in adulthood<sup>89</sup>.

## **Economy and entrepreneurship**

The borough's robust and diverse economy proved to be particularly resilient during the last recession, mainly due to the balance of businesses across a range of sectors — from advanced manufacturing and ICT, to financial and business services, creative industries, logistics and distribution, digital tech, and environmental technologies<sup>90</sup>. Sector diversity is a significant borough strength for both the economy and the local labour market<sup>91</sup>. This strength lends itself to a future where people are more likely to have a number of careers within their lifetime<sup>92</sup>.

90% of residents actively contribute to the economy, which is significantly higher than the Reading (79%), South East (81%) and England average (79%)<sup>93</sup>, and unemployment is relatively low at around 2.5%. This is lower than the average rate of 3.5% for the South East, and well below the national rate of 4.2%<sup>94</sup>.

Outside of Basingstoke, the borough's rural area and towns and villages provide around 16,200 of the borough's 82,000 jobs<sup>95</sup> and it will be important to continue to

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<sup>86</sup> Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q25, P27 and Q26, P29; Horizon 2050 business workshop, June 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P151).

<sup>87</sup> Horizon 2050 sample survey, summer 2018, Q18, P46.

<sup>88</sup> Western Basingstoke HE Capacity Study, February 2018; Draft Sector Proposition for Basingstoke and Deane, October 2018.

<sup>89</sup> Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q13, P14.

<sup>90</sup> Business Register Employment Survey, 2009-2017.

<sup>91</sup> Basingstoke and Deane Economic Needs Assessment, February 2018.

<sup>92</sup> Horizon 2050 macro trends desk research, March/April 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P25).

<sup>93</sup> Annual Population Survey, July 2017 to June 2018.

<sup>94</sup> Model based estimates of unemployment, June 2018.

<sup>95</sup> Business Register Employment Survey, 2017.

support the rural economy and its wealth of small and medium sized businesses<sup>96</sup>, including agriculture and the role it can play in supporting sustainability<sup>97</sup>.

Despite most residents believing that it is important for local people to be able to build a successful local career within the borough, less than half (45%) believe that this is easy. Around a third (34%) believe that this is difficult – including one in ten (10%) residents who believe that it is ‘very’ difficult<sup>98</sup>. Residents and businesses have concerns about becoming a dormitory town – highlighting the need to retain and attract jobs across a variety of sectors<sup>99</sup>.

A challenge for Basingstoke and Deane is ensuring that the local workforce is skilled and equipped to meet business requirements at the same time as enabling skills development in people with low or no skills<sup>100</sup>.

High-tech industries and digital innovation sectors are already requiring new skills from the labour market. Population growth will also create additional demand in the service-based public sector as well as education, retail, entertainment and leisure services, all of which must also be planned for.

One of the top recurring priorities has been to ensure that the local economy remains strong, varied and vibrant<sup>101</sup>. People want Basingstoke and Deane to be known as a place where talent and skills can grow and flourish in a supportive and nurturing environment.

Equally, in order to ensure continued growth, and to provide local residents with employment opportunities, it will be important for the borough to be able to attract and retain new businesses over the medium to long-term<sup>102</sup>. Residents feel that good transport links, good education and training, the borough’s reputation, leisure and culture facilities and the availability of office and commercial buildings are key to achieving this<sup>103</sup>.

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<sup>96</sup> Horizon 2050 business workshop, June 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P154).

<sup>97</sup> Horizon 2050 environment workshop, May 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P146).

<sup>98</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q9, P14 and Q10, P17.

<sup>99</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P52).

<sup>100</sup> Horizon 2050 business workshop, June 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P153).

<sup>101</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P57); Horizon 2050 business workshop, June 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P152).

<sup>102</sup> Horizon 2050 business workshop, June 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P152). Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q13, P13.

<sup>103</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q11, P19.

## **A borough with heritage and distinction**

The range and quality of heritage assets within the borough is considerable. Perhaps the most well-known of these is Highclere Castle. There are many other grand historic houses, including The Vyne. Many of the borough's towns and villages, including Basingstoke, are of historic and architectural interest. These settlements include individual buildings, groups of buildings, and areas of interest, some of which have been designated as conservation areas. Many other heritage assets, such as farm buildings and country houses, are, or were once, located in open countryside<sup>104</sup>.

Buildings and places of note range from medieval and later places of worship and mill complexes of various dates, to residential areas made up of Victorian terraces, civic buildings, and individual 20<sup>th</sup> century offices and other buildings related to industry and commerce. There are also a number of designed landscapes as well as scheduled monuments and other sites and features of archaeological interest<sup>105</sup>.

The draft Heritage supplementary planning document states that the preservation and enhancement of heritage assets are important for cultural, economic and social reasons and that heritage should be valued for its own sake and for its important contribution to the quality of place and quality of life in the borough. It adds that heritage assets impact on the character, sense of place and local distinctiveness of the places where people work, live and visit, and that heritage supports education, recreation, investment and community<sup>106</sup>. Going forward, there may be a tension between protecting the borough's heritage and ensuring that it is accessible for all residents.

Generally, residents were very positive about Basingstoke and Deane and felt it was a nice, clean and safe place to live. However, when asked to describe what makes the borough unique, residents struggled to answer. Residents didn't feel that Basingstoke had a high profile and mentioned how often people outside the area hadn't heard of Basingstoke or didn't know much about it<sup>107</sup>.

It was felt that Basingstoke's external reputation didn't match up with their experiences of living there and residents' desire to have a unique, positive profile attached to the area, that they could be proud of, was something that continually emerged throughout discussions<sup>108</sup>.

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<sup>104</sup> Draft Heritage supplementary planning document, public consultation version, November 2018.

<sup>105</sup> Draft Heritage supplementary planning document, public consultation version, November 2018.

<sup>106</sup> Draft Heritage supplementary planning document, public consultation version, November 2018.

<sup>107</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P50).

<sup>108</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, July 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P50); Horizon 2050 resident workshops September 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P82).

Residents also mentioned that they felt the borough had lost its uniqueness over time – either through ignoring or losing touch with its market town heritage or due to the rapid expansion<sup>109</sup>. For rural areas, comments focused on protecting rural identities and keeping rural settlements separate from Basingstoke town<sup>110</sup>.

Local partners and residents were keen to promote the history and heritage within the borough, including its importance for wellbeing and the economy, either within an environment theme or as a theme in its own right<sup>111</sup>. A local partner felt that Horizon 2050 should set out a vision for the historic environment of the borough, including conservation, enhancement, and increased understanding, access to and enjoyment of the heritage assets therein. They expressed an interest in working with the borough to develop this aspect and that if this amendment was made, they would be pleased to endorse the vision as a partner<sup>112</sup>. Other suggestions focused on providing more art and culture options – building on the success of The Anvil. Businesses felt this could attract more visitors to the borough, improve the night time economy, create a sense of community and provide entertainment and inspiration, particularly for young people<sup>113</sup>. Ultimately, residents felt the town centre could benefit from a more holistic focus on culture and rely less on shopping as an attraction<sup>114</sup>. Good leisure and culture facilities were also seen as important for attracting new businesses to the borough<sup>115</sup>.

Retail facilities (29%), facilities and activities for target groups (24%) and sports activities (20%) are the top three types of leisure, community and retail facilities which residents think should be prioritised in the town centre<sup>116</sup>.

Retail mentions mostly include prioritising more independent and high street shops, both of which are cited in equal proportions (18%). For facilities and activities for target groups, the main focus is activities for children and young people, with a fifth of residents (19%) saying facilities for that age bracket should be prioritised in the future<sup>117</sup>.

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<sup>109</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, September 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P82); Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q29, P32.

<sup>110</sup> Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q29, P33.

<sup>111</sup> Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, Q29, P32; Horizon 2050 resident workshops, September 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P92).

<sup>112</sup> Horizon 2050 consultation, summer 2018, P38.

<sup>113</sup> Horizon 2050 business workshop, June 2018 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P152).

<sup>114</sup> Horizon 2050 resident workshops, September 2017 (Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings, P90).

<sup>115</sup> Horizon 2050 sample survey, summer 2018, Q11, P19.

<sup>116</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q20, P30.

<sup>117</sup> Horizon 2050 telephone sample survey, summer 2018, Q20, P30.

## **8. Delivering the Horizon 2050 vision**

Horizon 2050 was developed through a substantial research and engagement exercise including in-depth and statistically valid techniques. Those who live and work here already have a very high regard for the borough and the quality of life it offers and in many ways it is unsurprising that they want the future to build upon the strong foundations in place in the borough today.

Residents recognise that the borough will continue to grow and develop and that this can be positive if done in the right way. Therefore it will be essential that Basingstoke Area Strategic Partnership members and other key partners work together to plan the development of the borough carefully and respectfully and that any growth continues to sustain and improve the quality of life of existing and future generations.

The vision for 2050 is of a borough at ease with itself where existing and new communities live together in a safe, healthy, inclusive, green and sustainable environment. This will be underpinned by a range of accommodation of the highest standards and the necessary network of social, cultural, health, education and transport infrastructure that will enable all communities to feel included.

It will be a place that will have coped with the unavoidable demographic pressures of a growing and ageing population by building new cohesive communities of homes that provide a variety of living opportunities for residents. Fast and efficient transport links will connect the various parts of the borough to the town centre, employment areas and leisure, community and health facilities.

The borough will be home to adaptable education centres of excellence that will equip residents with the skills required to meet the evolving needs of large and small businesses and respond to technological change. It will be a place where all residents can learn, work and build a fulfilling career.

Sustainability will be at the forefront of everything we do and the borough will be known for its green and natural environment, both through open countryside and the widespread provision of parks and open spaces in urban areas. These will foster local plant and wildlife and clean air quality which will be promoted through the use of low emission vehicles. As far as possible the borough will generate its own energy from renewable resources and consume its own waste.

Planned and careful growth will have safeguarded the individual character, heritage and distinction of both rural and urban areas and Basingstoke and Deane will be a place renowned for having the best of both worlds: a thriving modern town with excellent leisure, cultural and shopping facilities and extensive, countryside with vibrant rural towns and villages.

Horizon 2050 is not a policy document. It is a snapshot in time of how our residents, businesses and partners would like to see the borough develop into the future. On the journey to 2050, there will be some obvious tensions in some of the aspirations

described in the vision. Enabling growth while preserving the character of the borough will raise questions that key partners will need to address when developing their strategies, policies and plans. Some of the challenges that may arise include:

- how will our schools and colleges adapt to meet the needs of our economy
- the acceptability of renewable energy sources in areas of outstanding natural beauty
- what health facilities will be required and where will they be located
- how to manage the loss of green fields to provide essential new homes
- how to ensure that new communities are integrated with existing ones
- how to manage population growth without damaging our environment and existing quality of life
- how to ensure that the borough continues to be a place where everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of their personal circumstances, health, wealth or where they live in the borough.

Inevitably unforeseeable changes and pressures; economic, social, technological and many others will cause the vision to evolve over time. But the core values and aspirations will remain and will therefore be used as the basis for the actions that we take and decisions we make to shape the future of our borough.

It is therefore essential that Horizon 2050 is embedded in everything we do. Through close partnership working and engagement with residents and businesses, partners will work together so that any decision for the future of the borough ensures that in 2050 Basingstoke and Deane is an exceptional place where any of us would be happy and proud to call home.

## **9. References**

- Horizon 2050 research and engagement summary of findings
- Horizon 2050 sample survey summary report of findings
- Horizon 2050 consultation summary report of findings

All available at: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/horizon2050>