

BRANTHAM 2034 STRATEGIC PLAN

This Parish Council strategic plan is a “live” document that the council will update on a regular basis and will review annually. The Plan will enable the council to track and monitor progress against the objectives and timescale.



BRANTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

What is a Parish Council Strategic Plan?

This Strategic Plan has been produced as a statement of Brantham Parish Council's vision, values, objectives and key priorities for Brantham.

It is hoped that this Strategic Plan will be a "live" document that sets out what the Parish Council can realistically achieve either directly or indirectly through influencing other principal authorities such as Babergh District Council and Suffolk County Council.

The aim of the Strategic Plan is to provide Brantham residents with clear insight of what the Parish Council is trying to achieve and how it expects to deliver this. The Strategic Plan will identify the Parish Council's "direction of travel" for the next 10 years and will be used as a guide each year to set the budget for the next financial year.

These strategic objectives have been based on community engagement and involvement. It is hoped that the Parish Council will use these objectives to ensure that the Parish Council is more proactive in its decision making over the coming years.

As a "live" document, that will be publicly available, the Parish Council will be able to monitor progress against key targets and amend the Plan accordingly. Residents of Brantham will also be able to monitor and comment on the Parish Council's progress.

Moving the Strategic Plan Forward

Monitoring progress against the list of priorities which make up the Action Plan will take place at Parish Council meetings. The Strategic Plan as a whole will be monitored annually and will be updated to keep the document relevant and timely. The Strategic Plan will be available to view on the Parish Council website.

An overview of Brantham Parish

Local Government Structure

There are three tiers of local government, each with different responsibilities. Brantham Parish Council is the first and most local tier, with an important role to play in promoting the village, representing its interests and supporting the work of different groups in the community. Babergh District Council is the second tier and is responsible for services including environmental services (e.g. street care and cleaning), development planning, and strategic planning policies for all development via Core Strategy (including housing). The final tier is Suffolk County Council who are responsible for highways (relating to roads and pavements), health, education, social services, and public rights of way.

Governance

Brantham Parish Council has eleven Councillors who are elected every four years. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected annually by the Councillors at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May.

Councillors are unpaid and commit their time to improving and maintaining Brantham on behalf of its residents. Elections were held in May 2023. Full Council meets the first Wednesday of every month at Brantham Vilalge Hall starting at 7pm. All meetings are open to the public and there is a period set aside for the public to address the Council.

Brantham has a population of 2,600 (2021 Census) and 1,100 houses (2021 Census).

Brantham Parish Council's Main Areas of Responsibility

The Parish Council has responsibility for:

- The management and maintenance of the three village play areas (Merriam Close, Gravel Pit Lane & Temple Pattle)
- The upkeep of the bus shelters, noticeboards and bins (dog litter and grit).
- Street lighting in the Parish but excluding those maintained by Suffolk County Council.
- Submitting comments on all planning and change of use applications Brantham as a consultee of the Planning Authority (Babergh District Council).

Additional Responsibility for Service Delivery in Brantham

- Babergh District Council is responsible for environmental services (litter: refuse and recycling including dog fouling), business support and the provision of housing services (in association with Housing Associations).
- Suffolk County Council is responsible for highway issues, signage, lighting on main roads and co-ordinating public transport. The County Council is also responsible for education, health and social care and library services.
- Suffolk Constabulary is responsible for addressing crime and anti-social behaviour in Brantham.

Parish Council Staff and Management

The Council employs five members of staff two of which work in administration. The administration of the Parish Council is carried out by a Clerk (Sarah Keys) who is appointed by the Council and carries out all the functions required by law as the Council's Proper Officer. The Clerk is

also the Council's Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). The Clerk is supported by the Assistant Clerk (Fiona Coley). The Council also employs three litter pickers.

Financial Information

The Parish Council agreed a precept (the local tax levied by the Parish Council which is collected on its behalf by Babergh District Council as part of the Council Tax Bill) £63,636 for 2024-25. This equates to £63.75 per Band D property for the 2024-25 financial year.

Brantham Parish Council's 10-year objectives

Brantham Parish Council has set the following objectives for the next 10 years, these objectives will inform the Council's "direction of travel" and financial planning.

OBJECTIVE 1: BUILDINGS AND LAND

1.1: Brantham Village Hall

To provide the village with a financially self-sustaining Village Hall that is fit for purpose, versatile, inclusive and at the heart of community life.

1.2: Brantham Leisure Centre

BPC to work with leaseholders to create a vibrant and thriving community centre with a shared Brantham Buildings "brand" that is financially self-sustaining and offers good value-for-money activities and resources to local users.

1.3: Land Assets

Maximise the potential of all BPC Land assets to meet the needs of the village

1.4: Affordable Housing

At least 12 affordable houses completed or underway for people with a strong connection to Brantham.

1.5: Scout Hut

New Scout Hut in place

OBJECTIVE 2: OUTDOOR SPACES AND GREEN ISSUES

2.1: Skate Park

A well-used, fit-for-purpose Skate park in place that meets the needs of village young people and provides a vibrant and exciting place for young people to enjoy sport, fitness and a sense of community. Asset to host local competitions, be an embedded part of school PE provision and offer community facilities such as toilets and refreshments.

2.2: Allotments

At least 20 Allotments plots established and well-used with a waiting list in place. Allotment community to grow and flourish.

2.3: Tree and Flower Planting

To have planted ? new trees by 2034 and begun programme of wildflower and bulb planting to encourage biodiversity in open spaces.

2.4: EV Charging Points

To have at least 3 EV charging points in the village and well-used by local people.

2.5: Energy Saving Scheme

Village Wide energy saving scheme in place and well used by local residents helping to save money for local people.

OBJECTIVE 3: SAFETY

3.1: Brantham as a safe place

All Brantham residents feel safe and secure in their homes, shared venues and in village outdoor spaces. Drug and antisocial behaviour issues eradicated.

OBJECTIVE 4: COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT

4.1: New Residents

New Brantham residents to feel welcomed to the village and to quickly become part of village life.

4.2: Youth Engagement

Young people engaged with the Parish Council and local groups to ensure they are engaged and involved in activities and developments that impact on their experience of life in Brantham.

4.3: Community Groups

A thriving set of community groups that meets the varied interests and needs of village residents.

4.4: Village Events

A full and coordinated village event calendar with activities taking place throughout the year.

OBJECTIVE 5: VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

5.1: Roads

A137 to include multiple safe places to cross, average speed cameras in place along the road and engagement underway on possibility of a “Brantham Bypass”.