WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COMMUNITY VISION
2020 TO 2024

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, LEARN, WORK & GROW
AND A GREAT PLACE TO DO BUSINESS
OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

2017

- Our first greenway opened, offering an improved traffic-free route between Finchampstead and Arborfield Green.
- Bohunt School opened its doors as the first new local secondary school for a generation.
- Plans approved for California Country Park improvements.
- A key milestone was achieved, in tackling congestion, by gaining planning consent for Arborfield Cross Relief Road.
- Along with nine other local authorities, we jointly secured £1.95 million government funding to launch Signs of Safety, a new approach to children’s social care.
- Community Navigators scheme was launched to guide vulnerable residents to the activities and support available in the community.

2018

- Work commenced on a new shared footway and cycleway to improve alternative transport links around the borough.
- Phoenix Avenue officially opened welcoming families into their new homes in the £13 million redevelopment.
- Ryeish Green Sports Hub opened its doors offering a new gym, studio, four-court sports hall and a full-size 3G football pitch.
- Our first Children’s Book Festival took place, in partnership with Wokingham Town Council, bringing books to life through an array of fun activities.
- Places Leisure launched Mums’ Zone, a new health and wellbeing initiative to support mums and their babies.

2019

- Fosters Independent Living opened to provide supported accommodation for older people in Woodley.
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- Elms Field Park and Play Area opened, ready for the school holidays, in Wokingham town centre.
- Evening Leisure launched Mums’ Zone, a new health and wellbeing initiative to support mums and their babies.
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- Redvelopment of Wokingham Town Centre to offer new shops, supermarket, cinema and hotel.
- Contract signed with Balfour Beatty to deliver our major roads projects such as Arborfield Cross Relief Road.
- Improved bus links from Shinfield and Spencers Wood to Reading.
- 11 newly-constructed social rent homes opened in Tape Lane in Hurst.
- Introduction of weekly food waste collections to improve recycling.
- We declared a Climate Emergency and our commitment to do all we can to become carbon neutral by 2030.

- We launched a new Traffic & Travel Facebook page dedicated to keeping residents up to speed with roadworks.
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- Self-serve kiosks were introduced at six libraries, making it easier to check-out and return items and enabling them to be open for longer in contrast to other councils who are closing libraries.
OUR VISION,
OUR PRIORITIES

ENRICHING LIVES
- Champion outstanding education and enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of their background.
- Support our residents to lead happy, healthy lives and provide access to good leisure facilities to complement an active lifestyle.
- Engage and involve our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity which people feel part of.
- Support growth in our local economy and help to build business.

SAFE, STRONG COMMUNITIES
- Protect and safeguard our children, young and vulnerable people.
- Offer quality care and support, at the right time, to prevent the need for long term care.
- Nurture communities and help them to thrive.
- Ensure our borough and communities remain safe for all.

CHANGING THE WAY WE WORK FOR YOU
- Be relentlessly customer focussed.
- Work with our partners to provide efficient, effective, joined up services which are focussed around you.
- Communicate better with you, owning issues, updating on progress and responding appropriately as well as promoting what is happening in our Borough.
- Drive innovative digital ways of working that will connect our communities, businesses and customers to our services in a way that suits their needs.

A CLEAN AND GREEN BOROUGH
- Do all we can to become carbon neutral and sustainable for the future.
- Protect our borough, keep it clean and enhance our green areas.
- Reduce our waste, improve biodiversity and increase recycling.
- Connect our parks and open spaces with green cycleways.

RIGHT HOMES, RIGHT PLACES
- Offer quality, affordable, sustainable homes fit for the future.
- Build our fair share of housing with the right infrastructure to support and enable our borough to grow.
- Protect our unique places and preserve our natural environment.
- Help with your housing needs and support people to live independently in their own homes.

KEEPING THE BOROUGH MOVING
- Maintain and improve our roads, footpaths and cycleways.
- Tackle traffic congestion, minimise delays and disruptions.
- Enable safe and sustainable travel around the borough with good transport infrastructure.
- Promote healthy alternative travel options and support our partners to offer affordable, accessible public transport with good network links.
OUR NEXT STEPS, OUR FUTURE: HOW WE WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE WOKINGHAM BOROUGH

OUR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020-23

Some of the ways we are utilising our capital programme over the next three years are highlighted below. For full details please refer to our Medium Term Financial Plan.

- **£153.6m**: Building new roads and infrastructure
- **£37.5m**: Improving services, roads, transport, learning disability care support and social care
- **£59.1m**: On new facilities, care home for older people and investment in new schools
- **£18.6m**: On CO2 reduction, recycling, managing congestion and pollution
- **£18m**: Improving road safety
- **£82.4m**: Improving commercial properties, strategic property investment, and income generation
- **£21.2m**: Improving existing facilities and infrastructure
- **£13.9m**: On alternative transport, greenways, park and ride, byways
- **£31.4m**: Regenerating town centres
- **£13.9m**: On clean energy generation
- **£59.1m**: On education, learning disability care, support and social care
- **£80.2m**: Developing new affordable housing
- **£59.1m**: On clean energy generation

**2020**
- Open Bulmershe Leisure Centre in Woodley
- Friendship Alliance: working in partnership to tackle social isolation and loneliness
- Make every effort to plant 250,000 new trees over the next five years to reduce our carbon footprint
- Regenerate Gorse Ride to offer a variety of new, affordable, quality homes
- Adopt our Local Plan Update to guide where and how future growth takes place

**2021**
- Expand Addington School in Woodley so that more local children with special educational needs and disabilities can be educated closer to home
- Complete the next phase of Wokingham Town Centre regeneration - Carnival Phase 2 to offer new improved library and leisure facilities, commercial space and new homes
- Offer a new pathway of housing support to key individuals, such as those leaving care or in specialist accommodation
- Install responsive traffic light systems to help reduce delays
- Offer a new service to support disabled young people to plan and prepare for adult life

**2022**
- Roll-out green energy initiatives at our schools, libraries, leisure centres and other Council buildings
- Invest in, and upgrade, Cantley Park to offer a new café, play area and improved pitches
- Planned completion of major new roads
- Deliver our Climate Emergency action plan
- Regenerate Gorse Ride to offer a variety of new, affordable, quality homes
- Adopt our Local Plan Update to guide where and how future growth takes place

**2023**
- Extend our traffic-free Greenways around the borough
- Complete the next phase of Wokingham Town Centre regeneration - Carnival Phase 2 to offer new improved library and leisure facilities, commercial space and new homes
- Offer a new service to support disabled young people to plan and prepare for adult life
- Install responsive traffic light systems to help reduce delays
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**2024**
- Offer a new service to support disabled young people to plan and prepare for adult life
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For full details please refer to our Medium Term Financial Plan.
DID YOU KNOW?

Our Community Vision has been created through engagement with our residents, partners and local businesses. We would like to thank you for engaging with us and sharing your views. Your comments and feedback have helped confirm our vision and priorities for Wokingham borough for the next four years. Further details of how we plan to deliver these priorities, can be found in our Corporate Delivery Plan which is available on our website www.wokingham.gov.uk search ‘Community Vision’.

OUR BUDGET

Our budget is allocated to services as follows, with around 80% being used to provide statutory services such as adult social care, children’s services, waste collection and disposal and highways. Further financial information can be found in our Medium Term Financial Plan.

- **35%** Adult social care and wellbeing
- **25%** Children’s social care and safeguarding
- **13%** Environmental services (including waste, recycling and grass cutting)
- **9%** Highways and transport (including maintenance)
- **9%** Corporate and democratic services
- **7%** Other frontline services (such as libraries and community development)
- **2%** Debt charges and investment income

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE