

Strategic Plan Working Group Update

1. Background

In 2021, Calne Without Parish Council established a Strategic Planning Committee to develop and maintain a four-year rolling Strategic Plan.

This was driven by two key factors:

- The policy in Section 4 of our Financial Regulations which requires financial planning to a four-year horizon.
- The challenge of ensuring that CIL Receipts were spent or committed within five years of receipt, requiring an increase in financial planning discipline.

The last update of the CWPC Strategic Plan can be found here: <https://derryhillandstudley-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Calne-Without-Parish-Council-Strategy-2023-27-draft-v2.pdf>

Although, Derry Hill and Studley Parish Council's financial circumstances are very different, the need remains, and is arguably greater, for effective long-term financial planning to deliver improvements.

The Parish Council meeting of 8th December 2025 recognised this and resolved "to set up a working group to review the strategic plan". The Working Group comprises Cllrs Barnes, Todd, McHale, MacInnes and Williams, as well as the Parish Clerk.

2. Working Group Update

The Working Group held a kick-off meeting last month. This identified that two documents were needed.

The first document would describe the purpose/role of the Parish Council and outline our Values, Priorities and Objectives. It would describe how we are organised (parish boundaries and wards, Clerk, Councillors, Committees and Working Groups). It would also describe how we engage with outside bodies. An appendix would provide key facts and figures to provide useful background information.

The second document would be a rolling four-year plan, which would set out key projects, working group plans and financial forecasts to inform the annual budget-setting process.

It was also agreed to use the annual Parish Meeting to engage with the wider community to identify and consult on community improvements projects for delivery over the next four years. This would involve a workshop approach in two parts:

- Part One would involve group work to identify ideas for community improvement projects.
- Part Two would involve further group work to score the assembled ideas on., e.g. benefit, deliverability, etc., and report back.

The afternoon of Saturday 16th May has been pencilled in for this Parish Meeting.

3. Next Steps

Next steps are:

- Prepare Terms of Reference for the Working Group, for approval by Council.
- Develop a draft statement of values and priorities/objectives for consideration by Council.
- Develop further content for the first document.
- To develop a detailed plan for the Parish Meeting.

The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday 12th February.

It is expected that the Working Group will be in a position to share further progress at next month's Council meeting.

4. Recommendation

That the Report be noted.