

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 its second meeting on 12th February.

As reported last month, it is recommended that the Strategic Plan should be split into two documents:

- **Parish Council Overview** – *this would describe the role of the Parish Council and outline our Values and Objectives. It would describe how we are organised and how we engage with outside bodies. An appendix would provide key facts and figures to provide useful background information. This would be a relatively fixed document, reviewed every, say, four years.*
- **Strategic Plan** – *this will identify and prioritise key projects and include working group plans, with timescales and financial needs with a four-year planning horizon, to inform the budget setting process. It would be a rolling four-year plan, updated annually.*

3. Parish Council Overview Content

Section	Content
Role of Parish Council	Short statement describing the role of the Parish Council

Section	Content
Values	Defines the Values of the Council – see Appendix A for a draft.
Objectives	Outlines the strategic priorities of the Council – see Appendix B for a draft.
Organisation	Parish Boundary & Wards Parish Clerk Councillors Committees Working Groups Engagement with Outside Bodies
Assets	Summary of Parish Assets
Appendix – Parish in Facts & Figures	Public Rights of Way; Heritage Assets, etc.

Much of the content for this document has been developed and is in draft form.

Council is asked to review and provide feedback on the draft Values and Objectives of the Council, which are set out in Appendices A and B of this paper.

4. Strategic Plan Content

Section	Content
Key Projects and Initiatives	Identifies and prioritises key projects or initiatives, including expected outcomes, timescales and funding requirements.
Committee and Working Group Plans	Detailed plans for each Committee and Working Group to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims & objectives • Planned Projects with objectives, deliverables, timeline and funding requirements.
Financial Plan	Rolling four-year financial plan to deliver.

The first section of the Strategic Plan, detailing the key projects and initiatives in the Council’s programme, will be developed using output from this year’s Parish Meeting. This will involve the wider community in the development of the Plan.

The Parish Meeting is planned for Saturday 16th May at 2pm in the Lansdowne Hall. A draft Agenda is included as Appendix C: Council is again asked to review and provide feedback.

The Committee and Working Groups will be asked to develop and develop and provide plans of their initiatives. The purpose of this is to encourage planning and prioritisation of efforts. The draft format for this input is included as Appendix D: Council is again asked to review and provide feedback on this.

The four-year rolling financial plan will then be developed based on the output of the first two sections.

5. Recommendation

That the Report be noted and that Council provides feedback to the Strategic Plan Working Group on:

- Appendix A – Values of the Council
- Appendix B - Objectives of the Council
- Appendix C – draft Agenda for Parish Meeting
- Appendix D – Committee/Working Group Plan Template

Appendix A – Values of the Council – draft for feedback

Innovation:	Encouraging creativity, embracing change, and striving for continuous improvement.
Respect:	Valuing diversity, treating others with dignity and fostering an inclusive environment.
Collaboration:	Working together across groups and committees to achieve shared objectives and initiatives
Integrity:	Acting honestly and ethically in all our business dealings
Accountability:	Taking responsibility for actions, decisions and outcomes
Sustainability:	Committing to environmentally responsible practices and long term societal impact.
Community focus:	Prioritising the needs of the Community
Openness:	We will be open and transparent in the way we conduct our business.

Appendix B - Objectives of the Council – draft for feedback

- a) To provide cost efficient services to meet the needs of the Community
- b) To foster community cohesion through supporting local groups and organisations
- c) To improve road safety within the Parish
- d) To reduce the Community's impact on the environment and support the local natural environment
- e) To maintain our footpaths and bridleways
- f) To enforce our Neighbourhood plan
- g) To engage with the Community keeping them informed of issues that affect them.
- h) To build community resilience.

Appendix C – draft Agenda for Parish Meeting on Saturday 16th May

14:00 to 14:15 Welcome and Introduction

14:15 to 15:00 Group Exercise One

Group work; one councillor in each group.

Tasks:

- Identify one or more Community Improvement Idea
- Describe the Improvement you would like to see
- Identify the associated benefits and constraints
- Write up each Improvement Idea on a Flip Chart
- Nominate a spokesperson to present back.

15:00 to 15:20 Plenary – Report Back

Each Group presents its Community Improvement Idea(s) to the Meeting

15:20 to 15:40 Break & Refreshments

15:40 to 16:15 Group Exercise Two

Each Group to review the Community Improvement Ideas and:

- Rate it on a scale of 1 to 10
- Describe it in three words.

16:15 to 16:45 Plenary – Report Back

Share and collate feedback

16:45 to 17:00 Summary and Next Steps

