LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY
Trusted by Bexley residents

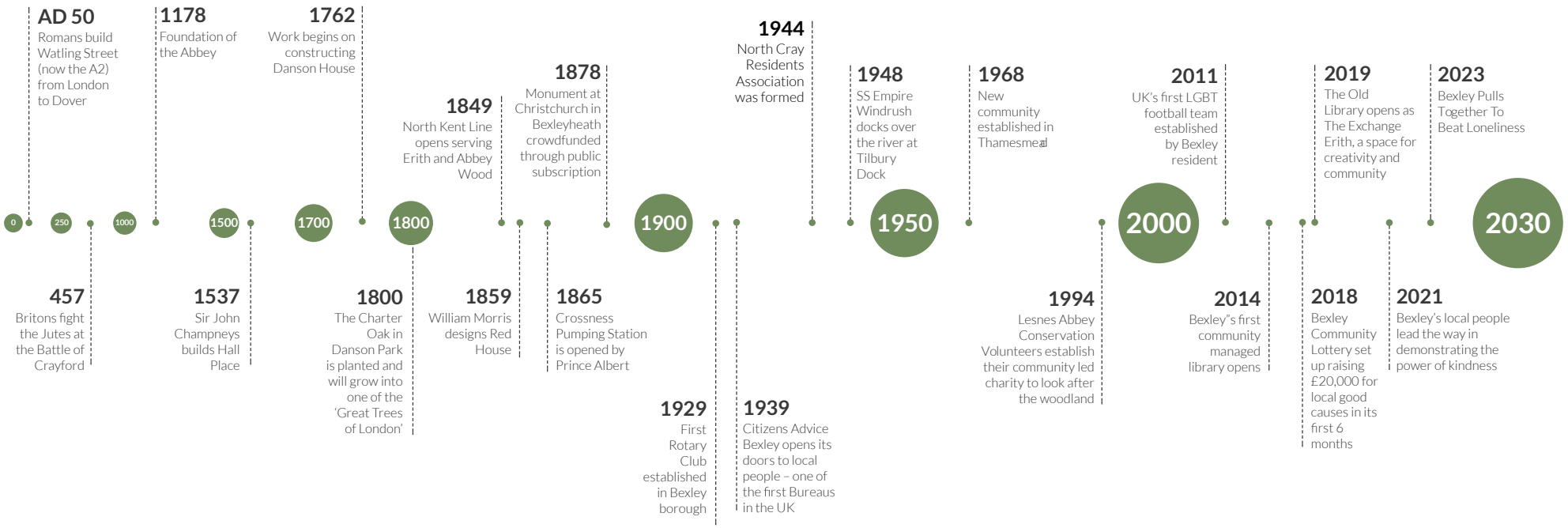
Connected Communities

2019 – 2023

A Stronger Communities Strategy for Bexley

Introduction

Bexley: past, present and future



Allers Allotment is run by a community of dedicated volunteers who have recently entered into a partnership with Mind in Bexley providing them with plots at a charitable rate

> **Connected Communities is based on simple, every day actions that build up community**
>
> **Bexley voluntary community group**

Over 360 people helped to shape Bexley's Connected Communities strategy including students at Townley Grammar School in Bexleyheath

Foreword

Bexley's Connected Communities strategy sets out how we will work with local people who want to take positive action to support the people and places that they care about. It outlines the London Borough of Bexley's plans for supporting and investing in community development up to 2023.

It is well-connected communities that play a critical role in delivering on a number of council priorities including managing growth that benefits all, preventing people and families from reaching crisis, supporting residents to live well, for longer and, by doing all this, also helping us meet the budgetary challenge that we face.

The strategy is informed by an initial 18 month enquiry with Bexley's communities to develop the initial draft, followed by an intensive three month consultation on the draft to develop this final copy.

We know that healthy, cohesive, socially active and successful communities are made by the people that live there. Everyone that we spoke to as part of our consultation on this strategy participates in community life in some way – whether this is looking out for their neighbours, spreading the word about their local community group, or coaching a sports team – people do it for Bexley everyday.

Through the consultation, we have learned that in order to build more connected communities, the best thing we can do as a Local Authority is to get behind the people that are already doing this. We will do this by

- Encouraging and equipping local people to take part in civic life, to influence decisions and local priorities and shape the place where they live
- Cutting red tape for residents who want to get on and be active in their community
- Building positive relationships across the public, private and voluntary community sector to identify shared goals and unlock untapped resource
- Developing people's skills, knowledge and confidence in responding to local issues and engaging with public sector bodies –and instil the knowledge that they can make a difference.
- Investing in the culture change required to deliver on this agenda.

It's our ambition that this approach is adopted across the council, but also increasingly across 'the whole system', with strategic partners, voluntary community groups, businesses and local people all working together for a healthier, more cohesive, successful and socially active Bexley.

Councillor Alex Sawyer
Cabinet Member for Communities

Bexley Mencap have teamed up with Good Gym Bexley to launch a volunteer-led weekly run to carry out good deeds locally while keeping fit at the same time

> **In a connected community, people without learning disabilities understand what it is like to have a disability**
>
> **Member of Bexley Mencap's Respect group**

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At a glance

Connected Communities are:

COHESIVE

We want communities in Bexley to connect, promoting community cohesion and social integration.

HEALTHY

We want communities to be healthy and supported, that mobilise the time and talents of local people, to support the places they live.

SOCIALLY ACTIVE

We want local people, neighbourhoods and businesses to have opportunities to be active citizens.

SUCCESSFUL

We want Bexley to be a place where everyone feels they belong and have opportunities for success

We want to build connected communities together through:

VIBRANT PLACES, SPACES AND NETWORKS

where all communities in Bexley have access to affordable, welcoming and appealing spaces, places and networks to connect.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND NEIGHBOURLINESS

where local people set, and maintain, standards about the kind of place they want Bexley to be – where kindness is commonplace, where people help each other out, where people don't litter and hate crime is not tolerated.

A THRIVING VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY, FAITH AND SPORTS SECTOR

where we work in partnership with local charities, community organisations and local businesses to share our knowledge, resources, expertise and skills to make a difference together.

GROWTH THAT BENEFITS ALL

where we work together to ensure successful communities of the future by building on the strengths of what's already there.

KNOWING OUR COMMUNITIES

where we need to continuously check who our communities are, their strengths, the challenges they face in planning for Bexley's next stage of growth.

We know that local people are the bedrock of a connected community. That is why we believe the best thing we can do to support communities to connect, is to get behind the people that already do this, to make it easier for people to participate in community life and to ensure that across all council business, we are collaborative and transparent, and put community partnerships at the heart of everything that we do.

Why do connected communities matter?

This strategy sets out the Council's plans for investing in and supporting community development in Bexley in the lead up to 2023. The London Borough of Bexley's corporate plan sets out five key outcomes:

- **Growth that benefits all**
- **Clean and green local places**
- **Strong and resilient communities and families**
- **Living well**
- **Innovation and self-sufficiency**

Fundamental to achieving these outcomes is building a foundation of connected communities.

Populations with good social connections are healthier, happier and more economically sustainable. Whether it is the connections between neighbours, between communities and local services or between people from different backgrounds, these connections help us access the resources we need to support ourselves, our families and community life.

Where social connections are poor, there is likely to be social isolation and loneliness in older people, the rise of intergenerational tensions, anti-social behaviour, gang culture and youth violence, vandalism, lower educational and economic outcomes and health inequalities.

Investing in stronger and connected communities, by making better use of our communities' strengths, is particularly important to the Council in the context of the funding challenges it faces.

So far, through working together, we have saved (or gained income of) £78m since 2010, but we still have further to go. It's estimated that by 2023 the Council will have needed to have either saved or gained a further £37m into its budget to keep up with demand on services.

We can balance our books by continuing to work with our communities, drawing upon their local knowledge, skills and capacity. In particular, we are looking for communities to help with the following very specific local opportunities and challenges:

Ageing well and staying safe:

To address ever-growing demand on the NHS and social care, we are working to help people to stay healthy, live well and support their families and friends to do the same. We believe that connecting the local health and care system more closely to communities is a good thing so that people can manage health conditions with better support. The voluntary community sector plays a critical role, alongside statutory health and social care providers like the NHS and the Council. In a strong community, we all work together to support our residents to live well, for longer.

Changing communities:

The Council launched its Growth Strategy in 2018. The vision it proposes will create many opportunities for existing communities in Bexley and will also shape communities of the future. The Growth Strategy sets out a vision for creating 'good growth'. In this Connected Communities strategy, we set out in more detail how we plan to involve Bexley's communities in Bexley's growth and development to ensure that change is managed to benefit existing communities, as well as those who live and work in the borough in the future.

Active and kind communities:

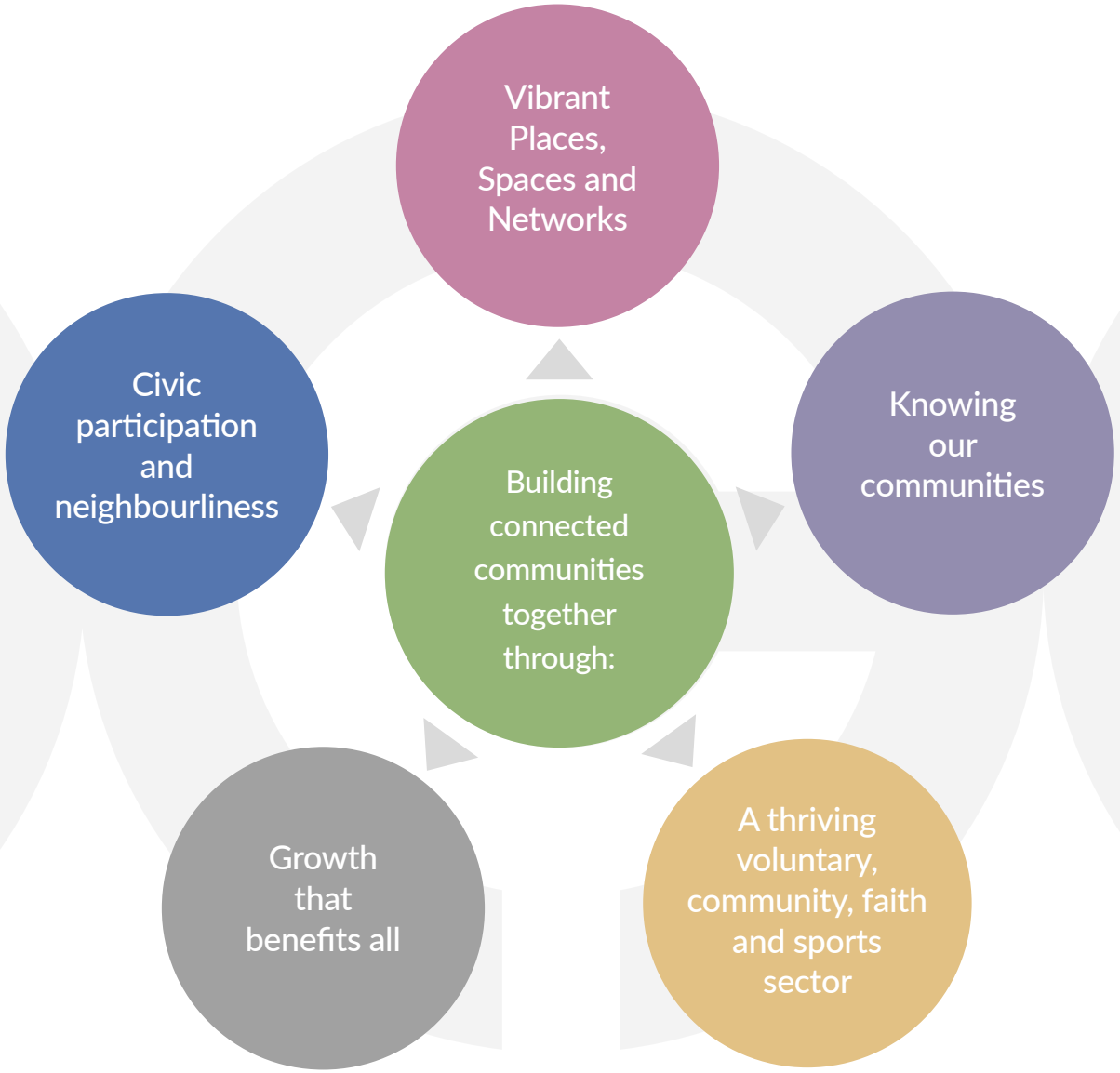
Residents and businesses have great ideas, skills and local knowledge. Creating connected communities is not just the work of the Council, Police and local charities. It also requires leadership from local people. Whether it is simply saying 'good morning' to your neighbour, helping a friend with the school run, checking in on a sick relative or volunteering for an organised charity – it is the local people that make all the difference to the success of our borough. Look out for the 'You can' boxes throughout this strategy for ways you can help create stronger and connected communities.

> **The matriarch on our street runs a "bring and share" street party with food to share for everyone - she hands out invitations to everyone on the street**

Pop up conversation at Crook Log Leisure Centre

Women Together in Bexley is an interfaith friendship group that takes place outside places of worship. The group was started by the Reverend Ann Norman from Christ Church in Erith and her aim was to bring together women of different races and faiths, to break down barriers and build friendships and understanding, as well as fundraising for Women's Charities.

Connected Communities – in detail



CASE STUDY:

Colette is the coordinator of Re-Instate's W-RAP scheme. Re-Instate are a local charity working to improve employment opportunities, quality of life and well-being for people in Bexley experiencing mental ill-health, learning disabilities and social isolation. They are currently developing ' W-RAP' (Well-being, Recovery, Activity Parcels) packs in partnership with older people who attend Age UK Bexley's Men in Sheds and the coffee mornings put on by Crossroads Care and Evergreen Care.

The packs that will be shared with some of Bexley's isolated older people who do not know now about or do not have the confidence to attend community events near them. The packs contain gifts that all relate to the 5 ways to well being, from packs of cards to toiletries, as well as information on what's on in their local area and invitation to attend.

Vibrant community spaces, places and networks

Community run Slade Green Knights Football Team meets every Saturday at the Slade Green Recreational Ground

CASE STUDY:

Bexleyheath's NYNE Lounge is home to the Shine club night, a space for young people with learning disabilities to meet new people, have a good time and shine! Shine is exclusively for over 18s with learning difficulties, such as autism and Asperger's. The initiative was the inspiration of a local mum whose son has learning disabilities and wanted him to have a safe and inclusive space to go out and socialise. She approached the nightclub with the idea who supported the night which takes place on the second Tuesday of every month from 7pm to 10.30pm. The venue is wheelchair accessible and carers are allowed free entry. Shine attracts around 100 visitors each month.

Community spaces, places and networks provide opportunities for people from different background to meet, exchange ideas, have a good time and build relationships.

These spaces can be online and physical, formal and informal including: community centres, digital forums, meeting places, places of worship, pubs, social networking sites, leisure and recreation, libraries, heritage sites, children's centres, parks, allotments, play space, town centres, open space, shopping centres, supermarkets, newsagents or community cafes.

You told us during the consultation that of all the sections in this strategy, you are most interested in this one as a way of building connected communities and said that if you don't have a place to meet people and connect, then you won't. 0

We want community spaces, places and networks that are:

- A source of community pride, with people taking responsibility to look after them.
- Opportunities for positive cultural, social and knowledge exchanges (e.g. in a food market or allotment).
- Used to their full potential, by older as well as young people, where residents are supported to draw on their talents, net works and interests to transform the space for community benefit (e.g. set up pop up markets, fun runs, Play Streets, street parties and community fetes).
- Welcoming and comfortable particularly for vulnerable residents e.g. quiet times, safe, well-lit with accessible transport links so people feel safe travelling to and from there.
- Accessible to all, ensuring that no one is disabled by their environment, tackling the social model of disability, affordable to young people, and open longer and at the weekend to give young people a place to study.

- Well connected by public transport, with 'active travel', close to public amenities.
- Aspirational and inspirational, maintaining standards that speak to the community spirit and culture of the place.

The council can act as an enabler of the animation of shared space by:

- Supporting local people who want to improve shared spaces e.g. community litter picks and clear ups.
- Reviving existing spaces through small design changes e.g. public wifi spots.
- Working with local businesses and community groups to ensure that new public spaces meet local demand and that existing spaces create welcoming, safe and supportive atmospheres for vulnerable residents.
- Unlocking new sources of funding to further our shared ambitions for public spaces e.g. civic crowdfunding and sponsorship.

In council run facilities we will:

- Ask groups of vulnerable residents to act as 'secret shoppers', to check that these spaces and places are welcoming and to improve people's experience.
- Connect people who help existing community spaces to serve communities – sharing good practice and ideas.
- Rationalise the Council's asset base to ensure facilities are of high quality and well placed to serve Bexley's communities.
- Seek to accommodate organisations that play critical role for our communities. This may include the re-configuration, acquisition and disposal of sites through out in the borough.
- Identify co-location opportunities for voluntary sector organisations to further develop thematic and neighbourhood clusters helping voluntary sector organisations to cut costs by sharing common services.
- Review the use of community centres to assess how well current arrangements are meeting our vision for connected communities in Bexley and take decisions on future models of delivery.
- Explore, where appropriate, how planning gain can be used to enable voluntary sector organisations to access affordable, quality premises.

You can:

- **Organise a community litter pick**
- **Join or establish a Friends Of Group to look after a local park.**
- **Earn 'Green Points' and pledge to pick up at least one piece of plastic litter a week if you see it.**
- **Look after your local area and make sure that shared spaces are welcoming and nice places.**

Civic participation and neighbourliness

CASE STUDY:

Progressive Welling is a new neighbourhood group of local people, community groups and businesses who want to do their bit to make Welling thrive. The group was initially established using social media where people were able to connect over a shared purpose - they wanted to bring some 'buzz' back to Welling town centre. A community litter pick was the first opportunity for Progressive Welling to take an online community onto the streets as part of the Great British Spring Clean. A total of 146 people turned out for the community litter pick which people remarked was an opportunity to get to know their neighbours better while doing their bit to tidy up their street. Local people and businesses came together again to organise the Welling Easter Trail. Children and their families followed the clues which took them to many different businesses in the town centre to lead them to the Easter Rabbit - a total of 77 children completed the trail and received their prize. By helping people reconnect with their local town centre the group are well on their way to building stronger community links for Welling residents.

Neighbourliness, you told us, is the foundation of a connected community. Civic participation, where people take action on the issues that they care about, are the building blocks for strong and resilient communities. Whether we call it volunteering, social action or simply looking out for each other, throughout the strategy's consultation, people across Bexley shared countless examples of people serving others for the benefit of their wider community.

> **[Civic participation and neighbourliness is] everything from street parties to getting involved with civic decision making**
>
> **Bexley voluntary community group**

Social connection is vital for physical and mental well-being. We know that communities throughout Bexley are getting involved in making their local area a better place to live. We want to shine a light on good examples, to inspire more people to get involved with their local area. As we have explored throughout this strategy, there are some social issues that go beyond what a Council alone can do. They require a community response. Loneliness and isolation, for example, cannot be resolved through a Council service alone. Similarly, community spirit and neighbourliness is created by community, not councils. We recognise the social value of neighbourliness and civic participation in keeping our communities cohesive, healthy, socially active and successful. We will provide opportunities and the tools, networks and resources that communities say they need to get more involved in community action and unlock their assets and creative potential.

We want Bexley to be a place where:

- Local people set – and maintain -standards about the kind of place they want Bexley to be – where kindness is commonplace, where people don't litter and hate crime is not tolerated.
- People help each other out.
- The community can be mobilised in times of need.
- There is home grown leadership – if you would like to do something positive in your local area, or raise a concern, you know where to take it for it to be actioned.
- People don't feel the need to 'ask permission' to organise something in or for their community – they get on and do it, with the connections, networks and resources to see it through.
- Shared space, like a community garden for example, belongs to the community as they set it up– and the community looks after it.

The council can act as an enabler of community participation and neighbourliness by:

- Working with communities to inform and run awareness campaigns on issues such as mental ill-health, dementia, learning disability and safeguarding, so that residents are well placed to support their friends and family and neighbours.
- Getting behind the people that are already active in supporting others e.g. supporting carers, launching a Bexley Community Fund and investing in a civic crowdfunding platform to aid community led solutions.
- Investing in Volunteer Centre Bexley to support volunteering involving organisations and help more people take action in the places and on the issues that they care about most.
- Increasing opportunities for more flexible volunteering.
- Increasing successful volunteering among: people of retirement age, 16–24 year olds, local businesses and people with professional skills to offer.

Local performers at the Bexley Windrush Community Festival 2018, Bexleyheath Broadway.

You can:

- Take the time to get to know your neighbours.
- Keep connected with what's on in your local area through community social media pages, supermarket and coffee shop community notice boards and your local library.
- Keep yourself fit and healthy, e.g. sign up to Good Gym Bexley, Bexley Park Run, your local leisure centre and Bexley's healthy walks.
- Become a dementia friend and help your neighbours live well with dementia.
- Keep the area outside your home tidy.
- Support local businesses.
- Get tips for reducing your food waste through the Small Change Big Difference campaign.
- Pitch your idea for your local area on Bexley's crowdfunding page.
- Learn British Sign Language with Bexley Deaf Centre.
- Tell us what you do – and would like to do - to make Bexley brilliant at #BexleyTogether and communitypartnerships@bexley.gov.uk

A thriving voluntary, community, faith and sports sector

The Yog Foundation is an Asian-Indian community group that mobilises the time and talents of volunteers to support health and wellbeing of Bexley residents and help them to thrive.

They run a free introduction to Yoga course to improve health and wellbeing as well as mindfulness meditation courses.

CASE STUDY:

Community Connect is Bexley's social prescribing service, which aims to tackle some of the social causes of ill-health by connecting people to community support. The scheme is open to patients registered with all GP practices in Bexley, who are aged 18 and over. GPs and their teams, including reception and administrative staff, can refer patients to Community Connect when they present with physical or emotional conditions that could be alleviated with voluntary and community support. Bexley's social prescribing model illustrates the critical role of the voluntary community sector in keeping people well, helping them to manage their conditions and prevent them from suffering a crisis and requiring a more intensive, statutory intervention. Community Connect is also providing insight into the emerging needs of our communities and is a great tool in helping the voluntary sector, Council and NHS to work together, plan ahead and build capacity in the community to meet the needs of residents

Bexley's communities are served by a thriving, home grown civil society which encompasses everything from household name organisations such as Bexley Mencap and Citizens Advice Bexley to the parent led support group Bexley Snap, the Interfaith Forum, the Women's Together Network, town forums, Scouts groups and local sports teams.

Our commitment to a thriving voluntary, community and faith sector is strong because we understand the added value it provides to Bexley - through financial resources, volunteers or expertise. We want to work with our partners in the NHS, local volunteers, local charity and community organisations and local businesses, to use this resource to make a difference.

When commissioning, we will:

- Co-assess 'need' and 'assets' with our voluntary and community sector, which is often closest to the issues we are trying to address.
- Co-design solutions with local charities, community groups, businesses and residents.

When commissioning, we will:

- Look to co-produce and deliver with voluntary and community organisations, businesses and residents.

Over the next four years we will:

- Commit to 5 year funding agreements with our local voluntary community sector strategic partners.
- Launch local initiatives to unlock new sources of funding for local voluntary and community organisations and community-led activity e.g. the Bexley Community Lottery.
- Work with the voluntary and community sector to lever in external funding and investment for innovative projects.

- Review the effectiveness of local voluntary sector infrastructure services and commit to the current level of investment in infrastructure support.
- Continue to use our grant-making powers to enable voluntary and community sector activity which supports our prevention strategy.
- Develop a local approach to the use of the 'Social Value Act', to ensure that we are getting the best possible social value for our residents and businesses when we use our local purchasing power.
- Uphold the commitments set out in Bexley's Voluntary and Community Sector Compact.

You can:

- Find out which voluntary and community groups are near you by visiting the BVSC Community Directory, The Local Offer and The Care Hub and attending community events like BVSC's annual community fun day and at your local library.
- Play the Bexley Community Lottery to support local good causes, while being in with a 1 in 50 chance of winning a prize!
- Attend the voluntary sector forum at Crayford Manor House.
- Sign up to BVSC's newsletters.
- Become a member of BVSC.
- Encourage your employer to support a local good cause and set up a payroll giving.

Growth that benefits all

Theatre Box Performing Arts group warming up at the Exchange Erith

CASE STUDY:

Case study: Erith's iconic former library, the Carnegie building, has been renovated and re-imagined as The Exchange Erith; a space for creativity and community, informed by the memories and aspirations of the people that live there. Local social enterprise, The Exchange, has been granted a lease by the council and led a series of workshops and tours within the Grade II listed building with local residents to capture their views on how the building can best serve their community. The building has since become a vibrant community hub, hosting community conversations, artist's studios, exhibitions of local heritage, new and old, as well as a café for people to meet and connect. The Exchange has brought the space to life through culture, arts and heritage to support local residents to creatively and collaboratively reimagine their town.

Bexley's Growth Strategy outlines a vision for economic growth and infrastructure development that opens our borough up to amazing opportunities, with improved connectivity, enhanced public spaces, the development of new homes and high quality neighbourhoods. All this is forecast to attract new people, businesses and investment into Bexley and enhance the borough's reputation as a great place to live, learn, work and visit.

We want to see growth that is:

- Understood by the people that live there in terms of its likely impact, its benefits and why it is happening and when.
- Planned to ensure that there will be adequate provision of schools, and GP surgeries, cultural and community facilities.
- Built on the strengths of what's already there, connecting existing communities, with new communities, to build cohesive and successful communities of the future.

Erith Pier Festival

The council can enable growth that benefits all by:

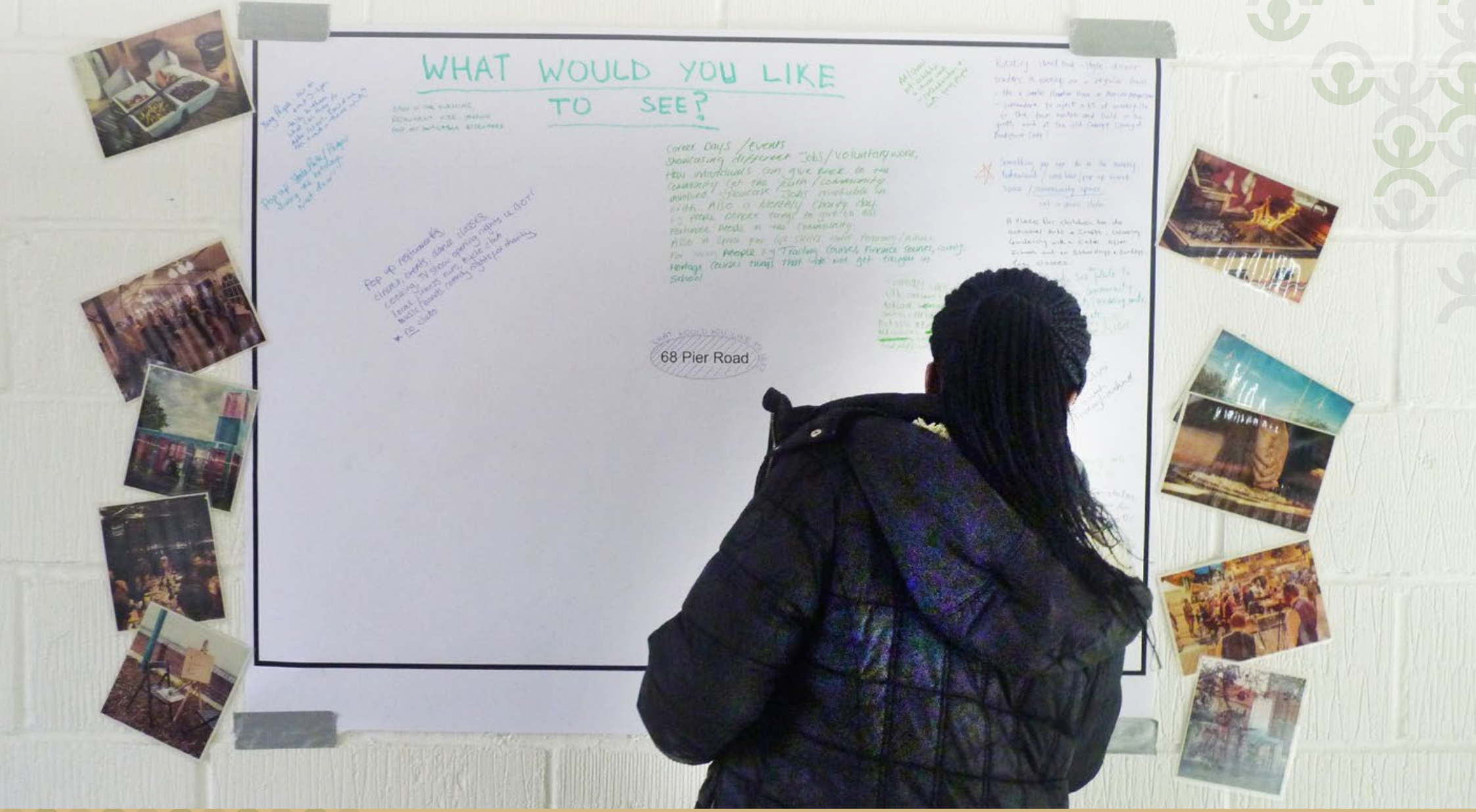
- Ensuring local people know and understand what is planned for their area, what the benefits are for them, and how to influence this should they wish to.
- Setting a standard in participation and engagement on growth, regeneration and planning.
- Taking a lead in de-mystifying growth plans, regeneration and planning process through piloting user friendly processes.
- Ensuring we effectively communicate the changes that are happening in community in both the short and long term.
- Issuing a statement of community involvement outlining exactly how residents and businesses and can have their say and help shape our plans.

You can:

- Tell us what makes your local area special and what your local area needs @LB of Bexley
- Sign up to the Bexley Bulletin, BVSC newsletter to receive community news and opportunities to contribute to Council consultations
- Get involved with a local community group or residents' association to share your views on what is important to you in your community; see BVSC Community Directory, The Local Offer and The Care Hub for a list of groups near you.

Knowing our communities

Local people in Erith were invited to give their views on the exciting improvements planned to begin in Erith in 2019, following a successful bid by the Council for a further £1.6m from the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund, including plans for a community space at 68 Pier Road



CASE STUDY:

Bexley's population is changing as Greater London expands eastward. As Bexley continues to experience rapid change in the cultural diversity of its communities, Bexley is also seeing the emergence of new voluntary and community organisations taking a proactive approach to finding solutions to the social and economic challenges facing their community. A forum to connect new and emerging voluntary and community organisations serving and representing Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (BAME) Bexley communities formed in October 2018. BVSC together with African Caribbean Community Association (BACCA) and Active Horizons recognised the value of convening a shared space to exchange practice and develop partnerships to strengthen the sector for the long-term. The forum now has a membership of over 20 organisations and continues to meet regularly. The BAME forum shares good practice and connects members of the network with professionals who can offer advice to increase sustainability and economic viability. Past forums have included presentations from professionals on making funding applications and on social media marketing.

Bexley's communities are continuously changing as people continue to choose to make this borough their home. Many of Bexley's settled communities originated from inner London - moving out for schools, jobs and often for larger homes with gardens. As the Council, we need to continuously check who our communities are, their strengths, the challenges they face in planning for Bexley's next stage of growth.

We want to see:

- Communities telling their own story – the council can help 'turn up the volume' of what is already here, dispelling myths and helping to build bridges between communities.
- Better information sharing on support and opportunities available in different areas.
- Area based action plans with hyper local understanding and response.

The council can get to know our changing communities better through:

- Effective and ongoing outreach and engagement with all our communities
- Keeping in close contact with voluntary, community and faith leaders and groups, listening to their needs, priorities and sharing opportunities. Undertaking a residents survey monitoring resident perceptions of community cohesion in their area and levels of community participation.
- Improving our research techniques.
- Improving data quality.
- Undertaking a 'state of the sector' report to obtain data on the health of our voluntary community sector, where the gaps might be in our community provision and where targeted support would ensure its ability to meet demand.
- Sharing what we know through; Community Directories like BVSC Community Directory, The Local Offer and The Care Hub; Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Investing in a knowledge management approach to support information sharing on local support and opportunities

You can:

- Welcome new neighbours to your street
- Report hate crime and abuse.
- Respond to resident surveys.
- New to Bexley? Setting up a community group? Introduce yourself to our Community Partnerships team.
- Report anti-social behaviour.
- Sign up to the BVSC newsletter, and the Bexley Bulletin, to share and receive community news and opportunities to contribute to Council consultations

Performing Places Bexley draws on participatory theatre to explore how we behave towards each other and can create more compassionate and connected communities of place.

> **The more we (by "we" I mean voluntary organisations and the council) can work together to achieve the same goals, the more cohesive we will be. Please give us more opportunities to collaborate, network and apply for funding together**
>
> **Survey respondent**

Appendix 1: Outcomes - What outcomes are we looking to achieve?

1. Cohesive communities

We want communities in Bexley to connect, promoting community cohesion and social integration:

- Decreased social isolation and improved wellbeing for isolated or lonely residents.
- Improved trust between communities and neighbourliness.
- People from Bexley's diverse communities are united across age, ethnicity, faith and locality, sharing knowledge, skills and resources.
- Increased community resilience and the ability to prepare, respond and recover from emergencies, hazards and threats.

Residents say that people from different backgrounds get on with each other.	Residents survey
Residents say that people in their street pull together.	Residents survey

2. Healthy communities

We want communities to be healthy and supported; mobilising the time and talents of local people to support the places they live.

- Increased ability to call on others within their community when support is needed.
- Increased connections and reducing isolation.
- Decreased mental health stresses.
- Increased individual and community wellbeing.
- Enhanced natural and cultural resources.
- Reduced rates of risky behaviours.
- Increased healthy behaviours.

Increase the % of adult social care users who have as much social contact as they would like according to the Adult Social Care Users Survey	Baseline 45.7% for 2016/17 against Nat Ave of 45.4%	1.18i PHOF
Increase the % of adult carers who have as much social contact at they would like according to the Personal Social Services Carers survey	Baseline 36.8% for 2016/17 against Nat Ave of 35.5%]	1.18i PHOF

3. Socially active communities

We will provide opportunities for individuals and neighbourhoods andbusinesses to be active citizens.

- We will provide opportunities for individuals and neighbourhoods and businesses to be active citizens.
- Communities in Bexley work together to develop their own solutions to local priorities
- Civic participation, community leadership and representation is supported
- Increased formal volunteering, e.g. football coaching.
- Increased informal volunteering, e.g. helping out a neighbour.
- Raised awareness of specific health conditions and how we as communities can practically support people with them i.e dementia, learning disability, mental ill-health etc.
- Improved ways for communities and community groups to collaborate and share knowledge, skills and resources for social good.
- Neighbours support each other in identified priority areas.
- Council resources distributed and allocated for resident and community initiatives.

Residents say that they have given unpaid help to a group, club or organisation in the last 12 months	Residents survey

4. Successful communities

We want Bexley to be a place where everyone feels they belong and have opportunities for success.

- Improved access to existing education, work experience and apprenticeship opportunities.
- Creating a unique sense of community and place.
- Communities challenge behaviours that prevent wellbeing and economic success e.g. misogyny, sexual exploitation, Islamophobia and homophobia.
- Council spends its money locally and in ways that have a wider community benefit (social value).

In the lead up to 2020 we would like to see increased reporting of racist hate crime – demonstrating a confidence in reporting. By 2024 we would like to reduce incidents of racist and religious hate crime	Baseline 240 crimes recorded in 12 months to October 2018	Met Hate Crime dashboard
Increase % of all respondents(aged 16-24) in the labour force survey classed as employed	Baseline 49.9% in Bexley in 2016/17 against 84.2% for 24–49 year olds in Bexley and national average 53.8% for 16-24 year olds.	Inequalities subset of 1.08iv PHOF
Increase % of all respondents in the labour force survey classed as employed (women aged 16-64)	Baseline 69.3% in 2016/17 against 83.% for men in Bexley and a national average 69.5% for Women aged 16–64	Inequalities subset of 1.08iv PHOF

Appendix 2: Consultation Findings

A full consultation report has been published and can be found at
www.bexley.gov.uk/connectedcommunities

Progressive Welling Community Litter Pick

Appendix 3: Related work

Bexley Corporate Plan

Bexley Compact

Bexley System Wide Prevention Strategy

Bexley Town Centre Strategy

Bexley Ageing Well Strategy

Bexley Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2018-2021

Bexley Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2016 - 2020

HM Government Integrated Communities Strategy

DCMS Civil Society Strategy: building a future that works for everyone

New Conversations: LGA guide to engagement

Mayor of London Strategy for Social Integration

New Local Government Network Community Paradigm

Is there anything we missed?

If you have any ideas that you think will help achieve the vision of this strategy, you can contact us with them at CommunityPartnerships@bexley.gov.uk

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If you would like the information in this document in a different format, please call 020 8303 7777 and ask for Communications/Graphics. The reference to quote is: 607367.1.19