

5. Borough Vision

- 5.1 The borough's first Sustainable Community Strategy had the vision of "Working together to make Dacorum a happy, healthy prosperous place to live, work and enjoy." This vision has been reinforced by the revised Sustainable Community Strategy – 'Destination Dacorum', published in 2012. The Council has taken these visions and used them to develop a more detailed picture of what the borough will be like in 2031.

DACORUM 2031: A VISION

Dacorum's Sustainable Community Strategy has been fulfilled. The community recognises Dacorum as a happy, healthy, prosperous and safe place in which to live, work and enjoy.

The natural beauty of the Chiltern Hills and the varied character of the countryside is admired and cherished. The countryside is actively managed and supports a healthy local economy and diversity of wildlife. More food is grown locally. Water quality in the rivers is good. Towns and villages have sufficient water supply. Carbon emissions have been reduced and renewable energy production is sensitive to its surroundings. New woodlands have been planted for the future and the borough looks much greener. Effective use has been made of developed land in the towns and villages, protecting the countryside.

Hemel Hempstead has been transformed through regeneration of the town centre and Maylands Business Park. The town is fulfilling its potential as a sub-regional business centre, important for green enterprise, and is meeting the locally generated demand for new homes.

The market towns of Berkhamsted and Tring and the large villages provide all the necessary services for their communities and surroundings.

The economy is buoyant and all parts of the borough have local employment opportunities, which are both varied and accessible.

Communities are inclusive and healthy. Minority groups are an accepted part of culture and diversity. New homes are affordable and cater for the needs of the population. Open space, facilities and services are accessible. New schools have opened and Hemel Hempstead has a new local hospital. Access to the Watford Health Campus is improved. Public transport is more widely used.

Differences in the character of each place are recognised and valued. Developments have added to character through their design, and sustainable construction is the norm. Special features, such as the Grand Union Canal, remain an active part of the heritage of the borough. The wider historic environment is valued and protected.

- 5.2 This borough vision is complemented by a set of local visions set out in each Place Strategy (see Sections 19 to 26). These local visions express specific aspirations for the individual towns and large villages and for the wider countryside and set out what these places will be like in 2031.