

TO 2018 AND BEYOND!

Most articles in this issue of *Babergh Matters!* focus on what the Council is doing now or in the immediate future. The article about Local Government Reorganisation on page 12 looks at an issue that may result in Babergh being wound up in two years' time. This article looks at Babergh's new Strategic Plan and therefore even further ahead - to the next ten years and the type of area that residents hope to live in. Of course, this begs the questions - why bother about all of this, if Babergh could shortly be abolished? Cllr. Nick Ridley, Babergh's Strategy Committee Chairman, explains "the issues that face the people of Babergh

will remain regardless of the findings of that review. Babergh Councillors felt it was important to set out those issues along with those outcomes that need to be achieved to help address them. This will then form the basis upon which future actions can be taken".

So what is this Strategic Plan all about?

The recently approved Strategic Plan focuses on the issues facing the Babergh area over the next ten years and highlights the key outcomes that need to be achieved to address them. The Plan is based on an extensive range of research and consultation

with partners and members of the public which culminated in the State of the District Event last October. The Strategic Plan sets out the long term ambition for the people of Babergh: A great environment in which to live, work and visit, where people have the opportunity to develop their potential and feel they belong to strong and vibrant communities. Based on the results of the research and consultation, the Plan highlights five priority themes for the Babergh area (see illustration). Within each theme, Babergh has set out what it intends will be achieved by 2018, these are called outcomes, there are 28 in all.

Quality homes local people can afford

- There are enough good quality homes, which meet high environmental and sustainability standards to meet the needs of the people of Babergh.
- There are enough affordable homes to meet the needs of the people of Babergh.
- New housing developments are supported by adequate infrastructure improvements
- Fewer people are homeless.



A safer and healthier Babergh

- People living, working and visiting Babergh are safer and feel safer from crime and its effects.
- A more active population with healthier lifestyles
- Improved health and life expectancy for residents, particularly in the most income deprived areas, with reduced levels of cancer, coronary heart disease and obesity.
- Improved access to all aspects of public healthcare services to better meet the needs of individuals and communities.
- Reduced levels of teenage pregnancies where they currently exceed the national average.
- It is safer to travel on Babergh's roads.
- The area is ready to respond effectively to emergency situations arising from environmental or other causes.

