

Basingstoke Canal Strategy

2014-2019

Mission Statement

Safeguard the Basingstoke Canal for the future

Vision

The vision for the Basingstoke canal is to create a thriving **natural environment** for wildlife and public enjoyment and vibrant recreation and **heritage resource**. Central to the vision is to create a navigable waterway serving the public. The vision seeks to unlock the potential **economic contribution** of the canal and its corridor and also to become a focal point for increased **community and volunteer** involvement and use. The ambition is to become a well loved, distinctive and well known destination for an extended market including **day visitors** and **tourists** attracted to discover and enjoy its peaceful setting and unique character.

Values

Within all areas of work the BCA will embody the following core values:

Quality, Stewardship, Viability and Sustainability

Strategic Priorities

- **Ensure the Basingstoke Canal is accessible, welcoming and safe.**
A robust set of policies, procedures and work programmes to ensure safety for canal staff, users and local residents.
- **Achieve economic benefits around tourism and financial sustainability**
A viable canal generating local economic, social and environmental benefits.
A robust capital investment programme leading to medium term financial sustainability.
- **Improve biodiversity and landscape, and achieve SSSI target condition**
Consider the biodiversity needs integral to other functions on the canal ensuring a balance of needs working towards an overall improvement in SSSI condition.
- **Improve the supply and management of water to sustain navigation and biodiversity**
Continue with research to find additional sustainable water supplies for the canal and embrace technology to better monitor and predict management and change.
- **Engage the community in understanding and appreciating the canal**
Develop a Basingstoke Canal identity which can be advertised across the network in a variety of media.
- **Develop volunteering opportunities**
Provide an inclusive and wide range of opportunities for outdoor learning, training and involvement in the canal.
- **Repair and improve structures to a standard that is long term and sensitive to heritage and environment**
An Asset record, backed up by a programme of regular monitoring and inspections to inform annual work programmes and longer term financial planning.

Underpinning Plans

Each plan is reviewed every 5 years with feedback on progress annually to relevant committees as stated below. The suite of plans requires review by the new management team.

Operational Plan (inc Emergency Response Plan)

Sets out the management and operational objectives and medium term project targets. This Plan refers to a number of other operational documents such as the Emergency Response Plan which sets out operational procedures in particular for dealing with emergencies on the Canal to ensure the safety of Canal users, the public and property. The Water Strategy Group outputs will inform the development of the Operational Plan, along with Policies and Bye-Laws.

Recreation Plan

Sets out the development of facilities for canal users to include marketing, branding, education and interpretation. Elements of recreation were formerly encompassed in the Operational Plan, and the distinct Recreation Plan will be developed over 2014.

Conservation Management Plan

Sets out the assessment of the Canal's habitats and natural and semi-natural features, and plans and programmes for the management of those habitats and features. A steering group made up of officers and experts oversees the implementation of the Plan.

Asset Management Plan

Sets out the condition assessment of the Canal's structures, and plans and programmes for the management, restoration and repair of those structures. This includes the capital rapid improvement projects. A steering group made up of officers and experts oversees the implementation of the Plan.

Business Plan

Sets out how the Canal will seek to maximise potential income streams from property, leisure and tourism. The Business Plan will show how the Canal can be managed sustainably on behalf of the owners and partnership to reduce reliance on local authority revenue funding, whilst fulfilling the objectives of the Operational, Recreational Development, Conservation and Asset Management Plans.

Memorandum of Agreement

Sets out how the partnership is governed and how it operates to enable the BCA to resource the demands put upon it.

Monitoring and Performance

Performance will be communicated using the following **Key Results Indicators**
It will be recorded using CMSi (industry standard recording & reporting software)

- **Compliance with Precept**

Each riparian local authority pays its precept as defined by the agreed formula

- **Income**

Maximising opportunities for both capital and sustainable revenue income (V3)

- **Safety**

A canal that is well maintained and safe for users and neighbours

- **SSSI Condition**

Working towards a favourable condition SSSI.

- **Usage of Canal**

Provide an attractive accessible and engaging experience for the users. (V2, V5)

- **Navigable Canal**

A restored (functioning) navigation and land based recreation resource, with a viable year round water supply.(V3, V5)

- **Volunteers**

An inclusive and wide ranging volunteering programme. (V6)

- **Community Engagement**

Opportunities for outdoor learning and involvement.

- **Green Credentials**

Creates a sustainable resource and entity. Operations need to sustain rather than degrade the environment. (V1)

- **Customer Feedback**

Monitored feedback that helps to improve services

Key Performance Indicators will be used by the BCA as an on-going management monitoring tool for self assessment.
These will be developed to monitor the above results indicators.

Each plan contains a series of actions which in the main, lend themselves only to subjective assessment of progress prior to completion. Progress against these actions will be monitored using a traffic light system. These plan actions will be used to inform the key results indicators.

An annual operational work plan will be produced, as a compilation of the annual actions or longer term projects from each of the main plans setting out priority, resources and timescales for each of the actions.