



**LCC REPORT FOR
ARLESEY TOWN COUNCIL
STRATEGIC PLAN
PROPOSED ACTIONS REPORT**

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LCC Associate: Helen Symmons

**Local Council Consultancy (LCC)
Collar Factory, Suite 2.01
112 St. Augustine Street
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 1QN**

**Email: consultancy@localcouncilconsultancy.co.uk
Website: www.localcouncilconsultancy.co.uk**

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Executive Summary

This report outlines the proposed actions to support the delivery of Arlesey Town Council's three strategic objectives for 2025–2029. These actions have been developed through a workshop held on 7th May 2025, alongside review of Council minutes. The document serves as Stage 2 of the Strategic Plan development process, culminating in the creation of a working Action Plan and financial forecast.

Stage 2

To agree the Proposed Actions to support the Council's objectives.

Part 1 – Resolved Objectives

Council resolved the following objectives at its Annual Council meeting on Tuesday 20th May:

1. To promote the wellbeing, safety and identity of the Arlesey community

Arlesey Town Council will prioritise initiatives that support the health, safety, cohesion and identity of the town. This includes improving access to green spaces, responding to antisocial behaviour, safeguarding community assets, and supporting events and services that foster a strong sense of belonging and pride among all residents.

2. To build strong partnerships that support a thriving and connected town

The Council will work collaboratively with local organisations, schools, voluntary groups, developers and other public bodies to enhance opportunities for local people. This includes improving communication channels, supporting inclusive community engagement, and creating connections that strengthen Arlesey's sense of place and shared purpose.

3. To deliver and sustain valued facilities and services for the benefit of residents and the environment

Arlesey Town Council will strive to make the best use of its limited land and resources to improve the availability, quality and accessibility of public facilities. This includes reviewing current usage, developing new services in line with community needs, and ensuring that decisions are sustainable, inclusive, and value for money.

Part 2 – Proposed Actions for each Objective

At the workshop held 7th May 2025, a variety of actions were discussed encompassing various horizons and aspirations linked to the objectives. It was also recognised that through the Council minutes, developing actions could already be linked to the emerging objectives at the workshop.

The Council recognised the importance of allowing scope for emerging ideas throughout the plan period. This will ensure the Strategic Plan remains relevant, responsive to community needs, and adaptable to changes within the town and the Council itself.

From the workshop discussions and with reference to Council minutes over the past year, the following proposed actions for the Strategic Plan have emerged. The core detail of the action is to be included in the main body of the Strategic Plan, with the notes in brackets forming the detail that will be incorporated into the Strategic Plan Action Plan that sits alongside the plan and is the element reviewed on a regular basis.

1. To promote the well-being, safety and identity of the Arlesey Community

- Deliver a programme of small-scale community-led events (the Council could aim to trial 2 events per year starting in financial year 2026)
- Explore the establishment of a Repair Café (with a feasibility report completed by late 2025)
- Develop and implement biodiversity projects ('Bee-squared', cemetery planting schemes, and hedgehog houses)
- Support local initiatives (Community Garden Project, St Peter's Church Christmas Tree Festival)

2. To build strong partnerships that support a thriving and connected town

- Undertake a community engagement programme including surveys and listening events (with findings published by early 2026)
- Develop a stakeholder engagement strategy to foster two-way support for projects (by late 2026)
- Create and adopt a Council Communication Strategy (by the end of 2025) with regular evaluation milestones.
- Upgrade the Council's website and bring content management in-house (with phase one completed by Spring 2026)
- Strengthen community connections through continued collaboration and support for local initiatives (Etonbury Green Wheel, Arlesey Parent and Toddler group support, annual community awards, financial assistance grants)

3. To deliver and sustain valued facilities and services for the benefit of residents and the environment

- Conduct a staffing and resources review (by end 2026, linked to a three-year medium-term budget forecast)
- Identify and assess the impact of housing developments on infrastructure (with findings published in 2026)
- Develop a pipeline of innovative community projects with an annual shortlist process (introduced from 2026)
- Ensuring sustainable management of green spaces (Council's Tree Management Policy, No Mow May)
- Maintaining the quality and usability of public spaces (street planting, grass cutting)
- Continue assessment and resolution planning for Council owned assets

Part 3 – Draft Strategic Plan

Based on the proposed actions, a draft Strategic Plan has been developed and is presented to Council

for consideration at its meeting 20th June 2025.

Strategic Plan

ARLESEY TOWN COUNCIL 2025-2029

Foreword

This document provides an outline of the discussions that have taken place within the Council in May 2025 in shaping a Strategic Plan for the period 2025 to 2029. It explains to Councillors, staff, residents and the local community exactly what the Council intends to achieve over the next four years. The plan will be regularly reviewed to ensure that progress is being made. The Council is excited to deliver this plan and is determined to ensure that Arlesey remains a town that delivers quality services to our residents, local businesses, visitors and the wider community.

Introduction

Arlesey is a growing village in Central Bedfordshire with a proud history and a strong sense of community. It has a mix of long-time residents and newer families drawn to the area for its green spaces, good schools, and easy rail links to London. Over the years, Arlesey has seen new developments and a steady increase in population, while still keeping its village feel and local identity.

Arlesey Town Council is the first tier of local government and was formed in 1974. It works alongside Central Bedfordshire Council, the main authority responsible for things like roads, schools and social care. The Town Council focuses on what matters most to our local community – looking after shared spaces, supporting local projects, and making sure residents have a voice in decisions that affect our town.

Population: As of the 2021 Census, Arlesey had a population of 6,022 residents. [Wikipedia](#)

Households: In the 2011 Census, there were 2,344 households in Arlesey. [Wikipedia](#)

Electorate: TBC



The mission of Arlesey Town Council is to represent the people of Arlesey, to foster a strong sense of community and to create a welcoming and safe environment for all. We are committed to encouraging community spirit, supporting local well-being and ensuring Arlesey continues to be a great place to live, work and visit.

Our Values

Our values underpin our decisions and actions. We aspire to be:

- Inclusive and Respectful

We are committed to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment where everyone feels heard, valued, and respected. We engage with our community in a way that is accessible, empathetic, and open to all voices.

- Transparent and Accountable

We act with integrity and transparency in all our decisions, communications, and use of public resources. We uphold high standards of governance and are accountable to the residents we serve.

- Sustainable and Responsible

We are conscious of our long-term impact and strive to deliver value for money while making responsible choices that support environmental sustainability, community well-being, and future resilience.



The complex, challenging issues and changing circumstances faced by the local community require the Council to identify relevant, pertinent strategic objectives that will be understood by residents and drive action in order to make progress towards the desired outcomes for Arlesey.

The four- year plan has three key priorities and an overarching aspiration of improving the quality of town life.

- **To promote the well-being, safety and identity of the Arlesey Community.**

Arlesey Town Council will prioritise initiatives that support the health, safety, cohesion and identity of the town. This includes improving access to green spaces, responding to antisocial behaviour, safeguarding community assets, and supporting events and services that foster a strong sense of belonging and pride among all residents.

- **To build strong partnerships that support a thriving and connected town.**

The Council will work collaboratively with local organisations, schools, voluntary groups, developers and other public bodies to enhance opportunities for local people. This includes improving communication channels, supporting inclusive community engagement, and creating connections that strengthen Arlesey's sense of place and shared purpose.

- **To deliver and sustain value facilities and services for the benefit of residents and the environment.**

Arlesey Town Council will strive to make the best use of its limited land and resources to improve the availability, quality and accessibility of public facilities. This includes reviewing current usage, developing new services in line with community needs, and ensuring that decisions are sustainable, inclusive, and value for money.

OBJECTIVE 1

To promote the well-being, safety and identity of the Arlesey Community

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Deliver a programme of small-scale community-led events
2. Explore the establishment of a Repair Cafe
3. Develop and implement biodiversity projects
4. Support local initiatives

OBJECTIVE 2

To build strong partnerships that support a thriving and connected town

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Undertake a community engagement programme including surveys and listening events
2. Develop a stakeholder engagement strategy to foster two-way support for projects
3. Create and adopt a Council Communication Strategy with regular evaluation milestones
4. Upgrade the Council's website and bring content management in-house
5. Strengthen community connections through continued collaboration and support for local initiatives

OBJECTIVE 3

To deliver and sustain value facilities and services for the benefit of residents and the environment

PROPOSED ACTIONS

1. Conduct a staffing and resources review
2. Identify and assess the impact of housing developments on infrastructure
3. Develop a pipeline of innovative community projects with an annual shortlist process
4. Ensure sustainable management of green spaces
5. Maintain the quality and usability of public spaces
6. Continue assessment and resolution planning for Council owned assets

Checking Progress

The aim is for this Strategic Plan to help drive the Council forward over the next four years, delivering the vision of improving the quality of town life.

The actions contained within the Strategic Plan will be regularly monitored via the supporting Action Plan to ensure progress on delivering the three key priority outcomes.

Progress will be reported to the Council on a regular basis to help monitor performance.

The Council will update the public on the progress of the Strategic Plan through the annual report, website and social media pages.

Next Stage:

Once the Council has approved the proposed actions and reviewed the draft Strategic Plan, a supporting Action Plan will be developed for submission at the Council meeting July 2025 along with the final version Strategic Plan and this will complete the project. The Action Plan will be a working document for Council to amend and use and will include a draft 3-year Medium Term Financial Forecast, again for Council to amend and use in future years.

Sample of Strategic Plan Action Plan (with Sub-Actions)

Objective	Action	Indicative Timeframe	Sub-Action	Indicative Timeframe	Responsible Party	Progress Notes	Budget
To promote the well-being, safety and identity of the Arlesey Community To promote the well-being, safety and identity of the Arlesey Community	Deliver a programme of small-scale community-led events	Start 2026 financial year	Organise Easter Egg Hunt in Resource Centre grounds	Easter 2026	Council Events Working Group		£500
	Deliver a programme of small-scale community-led events		Quiz Night organised for Chairman's Charity	November 2026	Council Events Working Group		£250