

Broadclyst Parish Council

Strategic Plan

2024-2034



Broadclyst Parish Council Strategic Plan 2024–2034 hybrid draft

Executive Summary

This Strategic Plan sets out Broadclyst Parish Council’s vision, values, and priorities for the period 2024 to 2034. It reflects the evolving nature of our parish, shaped by rapid population growth and demographic change, while rooted in our distinctive heritage and sense of community. The plan is structured around three strategic pillars: People, Place & Infrastructure, and Planet. It incorporates both community aspirations and the Council’s operational responsibilities, and is designed as a living document, subject to regular review and refinement.

Key commitments include:

- Supporting community development and cohesion across all areas, especially Westclyst and Tithebarn.
 - Managing growth sustainably through infrastructure, planning input, and asset delivery.
 - Leading on local action to address climate change and environmental protection.
 - Preserving green spaces and embedding sustainability into planning and transport.
 - Maintaining financial stability, with a clear precept policy and use of NCIL funding.
 - Improving representation, governance, and democratic engagement across the parish.
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1. Introduction & Purpose

This plan has been developed by Broadclyst Parish Council to provide a strategic framework for decision-making, service delivery, and community engagement over the next decade. It recognises the need to respond to local challenges, including rapid housing growth, infrastructure demands, climate pressures, and the protection of valued landscapes and biodiversity.

The plan:

- Aligns with the Broadclyst Neighbourhood Plan and wider regional strategies.
 - Builds on insights from councillors, officers, and community volunteers.
 - Provides clear priorities and SMART objectives.
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2. Context and Background

Broadclyst Parish, historically rural and centred on Broadclyst village, has been one of the fastest-growing parishes in East Devon during the last decade. New communities at Westclyst and Tithebarn have significantly increased the population and transformed the socio-geographic and socio-economic landscape.

- Population: 6,016 (2021 Census); projected growth to over 8,000
- Key communities: Broadclyst, Tithebarn, Westclyst.

- Character: Mix of historic estate village, new strategic development, and agricultural land
- Governance: 15 parish councillors; Full Council and committees; staffed team and active volunteers

The parish is characterised by increasing diversity, complex infrastructure needs, and a growing expectation for local service.

3. Vision and Values

Vision: To develop a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable parish where all residents feel connected, supported, and represented; where heritage is respected, and growth is managed in the best interests of the community, local economy, and the environment.

Values:

- **Inclusivity:** Represent and support proportionally across all parish population centres based on their need.
- **Sustainability:** Embed long-term thinking in decision-making, prioritise climate action, protect green spaces, and promote low-carbon living
- **Transparency:** Make decisions openly and accountably
- **Stewardship:** Manage resources, land, and assets for long-term benefit
- **Collaboration:** Work with public, private, and voluntary sectors for shared goals

4. Strategic Pillars

A. People

Through application of this Strategic Plan, Broadclyst Parish Council will aim to strengthen a sense of community and improve wellbeing through community engagement, service delivery, and support networks. This aligns with the Broadclyst Neighbourhood Plan vision statement “for the parish to continue to develop and thrive, meeting the changing and diverse needs of our changing and rapidly growing community.”

Short-term priorities:

- Support existing and help to establish community groups and spaces across the parish. with a focus on carbon neutrality where possible.
- Actively support youth provision, food bank, and community resilience.
- Increase community outreach and activity

Medium-term priorities:

- Promote wellbeing for all age groups, from toddler groups to support for the elderly and infirm.

- Encourage independence and promote resilience through targeted support and signposting.
- Develop and support a resilient volunteer network

Long-term priorities:

- Embed Community Connector role
- Build capacity in social support, with a focus on self-sufficiency and inclusion

People KPIs:

- **Short-term (by end 2026)**
 - Community Groups Support: provide active support to at least two community groups per year across the parish
- **Medium-term (by end 2028)**
 - Wellbeing & Inclusion: hold at least three wellbeing or inclusion-focused events per year, rotating across Broadclyst, Westclyst, and Tithebarn.
 - Volunteer Network Growth: increase the volunteer contact list by 20% compared to 2025 baseline.
- **Long-term (by end 2034)**
 - Community Connector Impact – In the Parish Survey, achieve at least 70% of respondents agreeing they “know where to go” for local help and support.

B. Place & Infrastructure

Through application of this Strategic Plan, Broadclyst Parish Council will:

1. Enhance the movement of people and traffic in and across the parish;
2. Increase infrastructure and provision of and for sustainable modes of travel;
3. Expand and diversify a range of economic development and activity within the parish;
4. Support the regeneration of brownfield sites
5. manage growth by improving public spaces, infrastructure while preserving the character of the parish.
6. Retain sustainable development, access to green space, and community-led infrastructure as central to our place-making goals.
7. Seek opportunities for additional sports, leisure, and recreation provision
8. Maintain and improve existing community facilities.

These aims align with Broadclyst Neighbourhood Plan vision “[...] preserving and enhancing our distinctive character and landscape”.

Short-term priorities:

- To support the delivery and uptake of food growing areas
- To utilise a range of community engagement and information methods, including signage, noticeboards, and digital communications
- Identify green infrastructure priorities in line with the Neighbourhood Plan

- Carry out a light-touch review of the Neighbourhood Plan within six months of the new East Devon Local Plan being adopted. Thereafter, ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan is maintained as a live document, updated periodically in line with national and local planning policy.
- To progress Policy CIL project 5, the use of CIL for traffic calming on Whimble Road in proximity to site H3.

Medium-term priorities:

- Ensure the approved NCIL expenditure policy is reviewed on a regular and timely basis as and where required to maintain it is fit for purpose.
- Establish a small Asset Delivery Working Group comprising the Clerk and 2–4 appointed councillors or stakeholders. The group will meet regularly to develop and review proposals for capital projects, informing the annual budget-setting process and ensuring alignment with the Council’s adopted NCIL Expenditure Policy. Recommendations will be reported to Full Council for decision.
- Create and maintain an effective maintenance strategy (buildings, open spaces, pitches, roadsides, litter, hedgerows, floral displays). Retain maintenance work in-house, but with flexibility to outsource for larger projects or where specialist work is required.
- Support the development of accessible and welcoming community spaces across the parish, enabling local groups and residents to meet, collaborate, and access services close to home.
- Develop sustainable energy and retrofit initiatives (e.g. community energy schemes, energy efficiency advocacy)
- Recognise the importance of play and sports facilities for health and wellbeing. Work with relevant parties to ensure play and sports provision is readily available and accessible across the parish.

Long-term priorities:

- To progress Policy CIL Project 1, the provision a community sports hub facility (in line with Policy CF1).
- To progress Policy CIL Project 2, the historic regeneration and / or restoration of specific sites listed in policy DH3.
- To progress Policy CIL Project 4, the downgrade of Elbury Lane (between Elbury Farm and Heath Crossroads) to Quiet Lane status for pedestrian, cycle, and access use only.
- To progress Policy CIL Project 6, the provision of new Active Travel routes (Policies T1, T2, & T4). NB this and project 4 above could be delivered through collaboration with East Devon District Council’s Clyst Valley Regional Park / Trail provision, and with reference to Devon County Council’s LWCIP¹ Plan.

¹ Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan

- To collaborate with strategic partners to create a movement strategy, including footpaths, cycle links, and public transport.
- Deliver an annual programme of community events that reflect the distinct identities, needs, and capacities of each part of the parish. Major established events such as the Fun Day will continue to serve the whole parish and support local groups. In newer settlements such as Westclyst and Tithebarn, smaller-scale or themed events will be developed in consultation with residents and local partners to ensure they are relevant, well-attended, and achievable given available space and resources. The Council is committed to inclusive engagement across the parish, recognising that equitable provision means responding to local context rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach.
- Align planning responses with high standards for sustainability and design

Place & Infrastructure KPIs:

- **Short-term (by end 2026)**
 - Green Infrastructure Mapping – Identify and publish a priority list of at least 3 green infrastructure projects aligned with the Neighbourhood Plan.
 - Community Event Coverage – Ensure each key settlement hosts at least one council-supported event annually, shaped by local needs and feedback.
 - Inclusion: Ensure each key settlement (Broadclyst, Westclyst, Tithebarn) is featured regularly in the Broadsheet
 - **Medium-term (by end 2028)**
 - Maintenance Strategy Delivery – Complete at least 80% of scheduled maintenance tasks in the adopted maintenance strategy each year.
 - Asset Delivery Planning – Produce an updated 3-year capital projects plan annually, showing alignment with NCIL Expenditure Policy.
 - Policy update: Review Neighbourhood Plan once Local Plan is made
 - Policy update: Ensure NCIL Policy is reviewed on a timely basis
 - **Long-term (by end 2034)**
 - Active Travel Routes – Deliver at least two new or upgraded active travel routes in partnership with strategic partners.
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C. Planet

Through application of this Strategic Plan, we will:

1. protect and enhance the natural environment and diverse habitats of the parish;
2. protect and enhance the landscape setting of the parish;
3. aim to secure high quality development which addresses the challenges of climate change;
4. ensure development provides a net biodiversity gain;

These aims align with Broadclyst Neighbourhood Plan and projects identified within. By leading by example in addressing climate change and protecting our natural environment, the council will act on its climate emergency declaration and aim to align all council activities with environmental responsibility.

Short-term priorities:

- Continue to promote carbon literacy training for councillors, and promote training around climate change in the community.
- Encourage local groups that are in receipt of grants from the council to address their carbon footprint
- Seek collaborative partners to support the council to deliver on its climate emergency declaration

Medium-term priorities:

- Work with Broadclyst Environment Group;
- Conduct a review of council's carbon footprint
- Encourage biodiversity through habitat restoration and native planting and support residents to protect and encourage habitat creation / restoration.
- Promote sustainable and active travel initiatives including
 - EV charging points
 - Use of Park & Change / Park & Ride schemes

Long-term priorities:

- To progress Policy CIL Project 3, the provision of community-led energy regeneration projects (policy DC6).
- To progress Policy CIL Project 7, planting schemes as specified in Policy NE2, NE3, NE4, & NE7.
- to embed sustainable practices across all parish council activities
- Promote sustainable land use
- Ensure all planning input supports low-carbon, nature-friendly development

Planet KPIs:

- **Short-term (by end 2026)**
 - Carbon Literacy Training – Train 100% of councillors in carbon literacy, and offer at least one community session per year.
 - Climate-Focused Grants – To monitor the percentage of community grant funding is allocated to projects that demonstrate carbon reduction or biodiversity gain.
 - **Medium-term (by end 2028)**
 - Carbon Footprint Review – Complete a full council carbon footprint assessment and publish an action plan with measurable targets.
 - Biodiversity Projects – Support at least three parish-based biodiversity improvement projects per year (habitat restoration, native planting, etc.).
 - **Long-term (by end 2034)**
 - Renewable Energy Projects – Facilitate at least one community-led renewable energy scheme in line with Policy DC6.
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5. Financial Strategy

This strategy provides a framework for medium-long term financial planning,

Broadclyst faces significant opportunities and responsibilities arising from an expanding tax base and the receipt of substantial NCIL funds. The Council takes a prudent and transparent approach to long-term financial planning, balancing service delivery, asset maintenance, and capital investment.

The creation of a 5 year income plan updated annually reflecting house build rate and inflation. . Allow flexibility for major projects to change this if voted for by Full Council. The budget to be targeted on keeping the Band D average at the same rate, or by increasing at no more than the rate of inflation.

Precept Policy:

- Aim to keep the Band D precept rate stable in real terms where possible, while retaining the flexibility to respond to changing circumstances, such as inflation, asset transfers, or local government reorganisation.

NCIL Strategy:

- Adopt a formal NCIL Expenditure Policy in 2025.
- Use NCIL funds to support one-off infrastructure investments, especially those that reduce future revenue liabilities (e.g. asset endowments).
- Apply NCIL funding in line with strategic objectives and community infrastructure needs across the whole parish.
- Create a working group, “Asset Delivery” which will:
 - assess opportunities for NCIL expenditure, and make recommendations to the council
 - provide oversight of projects for the delivery of new assets, and report to the council

KPIs:

- Band D precept rate monitored annually, with explanatory narrative published where changes occur.
 - 100% of NCIL allocations demonstrably aligned with strategic priorities and compliant with the adopted NCIL Policy.
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6. Governance and Delivery**Governance:**

- Full Council: strategic decisions
- Committees: Finance, Planning, Environment & Traffic, Staffing, Communications, Events.
- Working Groups: Asset Delivery, School Traffic, Fun Day.

Delivery:

- Parish Clerk: operational lead
- Staff team: responsibility for specific areas of operation
- Community Connector: people-centred initiatives
- Paid external consultants
- Volunteers: essential delivery network

Review Cycle:

- Review in mid-term
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7. Community Engagement

We commit to a two-way dialogue with residents and stakeholders:

- **Channels:** Broadsheet, noticeboards, , formal consultation, public meetings, online platforms
 - **Focus:** Proportionally represented across the different Parish population centres; youth voice; accessible and inclusive.
 - **Actions:**
 - Survey on council priorities by 2026
 - Consider Ward system if representation gap persists
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8. Appendices (to follow in final publication)

- Action Plan Tracker
- NCIL Policy Summary
- Planning and Infrastructure Map
- Engagement Log Template
- Budget Projections

Draft prepared for consultation – August 2025

Comments invited from councillors, officers, and residents by [insert date]