

Newton Abbot Town Council Strategic Plan (2025 - 2027)



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"Newton Abbot: The town that delivers"

A thriving, inclusive, and sustainable community that respects its heritage while innovating for the future.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Objective: To ensure the town is at the forefront of initiatives to take advantage of any opportunities that might arise due to national and regional structural changes.

The Strategic Plan 2025 - 2027 sets out Newton Abbot Town Council's immediate priorities, focusing on sustainability, community wellbeing, economic development, and the protection of the town's rich heritage. It represents a clear and actionable framework to guide progress over the next three years. However, this plan is intended as a transitional first step. As an interim measure, it provides a strategic foundation to ensure continuity and momentum until the next electoral cycle. From 2027 onward, the Council should seek to develop and adopt a comprehensive five-year Strategic Plan that aligns with the term of the incoming councillors in May 2027, enabling the newly elected body to take ownership of a long-term vision and deliver lasting impact for the community.

Actions:

- Monitor and take appropriate actions arising from proposals for Local Government Review in Devon for the benefit of the residents of Newton Abbot.
- Be aware and prepared to take advantage of any asset transfer opportunities as they arise.

Year	Key Milestones
2025	Launch Youth Café & Forum, begin, expand greening projects
2025–2027	Enhance green infrastructure and street furniture
2026	Deliver "Linger Longer" town centre improvements, install public art, improve accessibility
2026	Refresh Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Development Plan
2027	Support new allotments
2028	Open Cultural Venue, complete Theatre & Arts Academy, expand EV infrastructure
2029 - 30	Review progress, embed sustainability in all Council operations

Approach:

Achieving the ambitions set out in this Strategic Plan depends on meaningful partnerships across sectors. Newton Abbot Town Council recognises that lasting impact comes through collaboration with local organisations, voluntary groups, education providers, businesses, and other authorities. By combining our resources, insights, and community networks, we can deliver more inclusive, efficient, and sustainable outcomes for residents.

KEY PRIORITIES

1. A Vibrant and Accessible Town Centre

Objective: Make the town centre a thriving hub of economic, cultural, and social activity.

Actions:

- Enhance green infrastructure and street furniture.
- Continue to support town centre revitalisation with public art, green spaces, and family-friendly spaces.
- Support the development of the Alexandra Theatre as a cultural hub for theatre, music, and youth arts.
- Continue “Linger Longer” initiatives: seating, outdoor events, pay-on-exit parking.
- Strengthen local retail by offering Shop Improvement Grant and facilitating strategic product placement schemes.
- Continue to promote public safety through support for CCTV and other initiatives.

Timeline:

- 2025 - 2027: Theatre redevelopment & public realm enhancements.
- 2028 - 2030: Deliver cultural programming & café-style public areas.

2. Championing the Needs of Young People

Objective: Support and empower young people in Newton Abbot, ensuring access to opportunities.

Actions:

- Establish a Youth Forum (Voice 4 Youth) with digital engagement along with the adoption of a Youth Policy.
- Open a Youth Café offering social, educational, and mental health support.
- incorporate youth-friendly design in public spaces.
- Develop youth arts training in partnership with Alexandra Theatre.

Timeline:

- 2025: Launch Youth Forum.
- 2026 - 2027: Open Youth Café.

- 2027 - 2030: Expand youth engagement in arts and volunteering.

3. Supporting an Age-Friendly Community

Objective: Reduce isolation, increase accessibility, and improve services for older residents.

Actions:

- Enhance accessibility in public spaces: benches, toilets, shelters.
- Improve transport and public information systems.
- Support intergenerational projects and volunteering opportunities.

Timeline:

- 2025–2026: Accessibility audits and infrastructure upgrades.
- 2026–2030: Community info campaigns and bus network collaborations.

4. Preserving Heritage & Enhancing Cultural Life

Objective: Celebrate Newton Abbot’s distinctive heritage and grow its cultural identity.

Actions:

- Continue to support Newton’s Place and the Museum’s programming.
- Deliver a cultural venue with exhibition and performance space (by 2028).
- Invest in open-air arts, public installations, and historic building preservation.
- Encourage community-led exhibitions and local storytelling projects.

Timeline:

- 2025–2027: Expand Museum and cultural events, support exhibitions, restore heritage buildings.
- 2028–2030: Launch heritage trails and augmented reality exhibits.

5. Leading Environmental Sustainability

Objective: Build a greener, climate-conscious town.

Actions:

- Continue to progress the Council’s Biodiversity Policy.
- Focus activities in accordance with the Council’s stance on sustainability and climate issues.
- Expand cycle paths, electric vehicle and e-bike infrastructure.
- Enhance green corridors, wildlife spaces, and urban tree planting.
- Promote community energy projects and low-carbon public buildings.

- Continue to work in partnership with local green initiatives/organisations, such as Green Futures Newton Abbot to amplify environmental impact, share resources and foster community engagement.
- Progress actions contained in the Sustainable Procurement and Environmental Responsibility Policy.

Timeline:

- 2025–2026: Deliver biodiversity corridors and Tree planting drives.
- 2027–2030: Renewable energy trials and EV infrastructure planning.

6. Enabling Stronger Communities

Objective: Build resilience through volunteering, communication, and shared spaces. Promote civic pride, community involvement, and social cohesion.

Actions:

- Expand local event programming across all seasons.
- Increase community grants and promote volunteering through public engagement initiatives.
- Maintain Newton’s Place as a community anchor.
- The Council will actively seek asset transfers from principal councils where such an asset being in the Town Council’s ownership better serves the communities of Newton Abbot.
- Neighbourhood Development Plan refresh.
- Annual review of community events and grants.
- Biannual volunteer celebration and recognition schemes.

Timeline:

- 2026: Neighbourhood Development Plan refresh.
- 2026: Annual review of community events and grants.

Delivery & Partnerships

Lead: Newton Abbot Town Council

Partners: Teignbridge District Council, Devon County Council, Newton Abbot CIC, local schools, cultural groups, voluntary sector, community organisations.

Key Milestones Summary	
2025	Launch Youth Café & Forum; Expand greening projects
2026	Public art & accessibility upgrades; NDP review
2027	Community growing spaces; youth expansion initiatives
2028	Open cultural venue & Theatre Academy; boost EV infrastructure
2029 - 30	Strategic review & embed sustainability across operations

Monitoring, Governance & Delivery

- Annual review against KPIs aligned to each strategic priority.
- Community engagement through surveys, Town Meetings, and the Youth Council.
- Project updates from the Projects & Strategy Officer to Council.



Newton Abbot Town Council – Serving the Community