

3.

The vision for Didcot

A clear vision is an important part of the garden town plan, since it sets out the ambition and ensures everyone has the objective in mind when responding to opportunities and setting priorities for the next 20 years. This chapter outlines both the vision and a range of principles that will guide development of Didcot Garden Town.

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3.1

The vision for Didcot

3.1.1 The garden town opportunity

What does garden town status aim to enable?

The garden city movement encapsulated a holistic urban design approach formed by Ebenezer Howard in 1898, reinvigorated as new urbanism in the 1980s.

The garden city concept was that of a planned urban core, populated with self-sufficient communities, living in greenbelt areas of housing, commerce and agriculture.

The garden city movement was based on physical, aesthetic and social principles relating to the form, function and governance of place, and concerned with the city's relation to the rural. The principles were

underpinned by land, housing and commerce reform and grounded in the ethos of economic success channelled to improve social and environmental wellbeing.

The new urbanist reading of the garden city movement was as much an economic concept as an aesthetic and environmental one. The masterplan sat front and central as integral to creating an attractive and viable place, the quality of this plan informing its success and longevity. Significantly, and a marker of this movement, the local community was active at all stages of decision-making in the form and function of place.

A garden city has:

1. an equality of built, social and environmental infrastructure to foster place attachment and community cohesion, where the design of its form is equal to that of its function
2. a governance model where its ownership and management is built on locally co-operative principles
3. a form that fosters a meaningful relationship to urban land through a continuum to its rural periphery, from the town centre core, through urban neighbourhoods to rural villages



Cherry orchard © David Marsh



What could garden town status mean for Didcot?

Becoming a garden town affords Didcot numerous material, cultural, economic and political opportunities. Overall, the offer is for Didcot to grow into a place that people near and far want to come to, built on its unique assets that is about community as much as architecture and urban design. It offers Didcot the chance to become a uniquely attractive place to live, work and learn for residents and visitors alike, now and into the future.

The key aspects of contemporary garden town thinking are:

- a productive urban centre that is accountable to and controlled and governed by and for the community
- embedded and sustainable design and management

The garden town status and approach will galvanise Didcot's social, cultural, economic, political and environmental assets as one whole ecosystem, creating an inclusive and holistically planned town of high-quality and affordable housing and cultural amenities; that is aesthetically beautiful; with healthy, sociable and civic-minded communities.

The relationship between landscape and urban space creates an opportunity for

sustainability, such as food production, to be integrated into urban development – to produce a diverse urban form that is easily traversed by foot and bike. The community-focussed governance offers its population an active say and stake in the development of new ideas, decision-making and implementation, and to both share in and enjoy its future prosperity.

The approach

Shaping a vision for the garden town through considered engagement with a broad range of community stakeholders (see Chapter 2) has drawn out a set of primary pillars and principles that define a unique approach for Didcot.

There has been a strong sense that a collective ownership of the town has been lost in recent times, and that the garden town presents a real opportunity to regain this through a strong new brand identity that gives the town the permission and confidence to be special.

To do this however, everyone in the town must feel involved in the process, nurturing a shared energy, agency and pride in the creation of the garden town. Cross-sectoral, cross-cultural, and intergenerational working are

examples of how creative collaboration models can bring together the wisdom and creativity of the town's diverse communities in powerful ways. Stakeholders can help devise and lead these processes: a pioneering group of 'community builders' driving the community component of the garden town governance model. This is so important if, for example, younger and older members of the community are to feel any importance in this process. Section 10.2 articulates the proposed governance model in detail.

Support has been voiced for the organic growth of a unifying town centre linked to multiple neighbourhoods and productive landscapes, where new urban green space is based on evidence confirming its' social, environmental and economic values and benefits".

Stakeholder support for "smart city" ideas to be part of a Didcot Garden Town future development strategy means that technology based solutions to various urban challenges can help to create a more vibrant economy for the town.

3.1.2 Summary of vision

The awarding of garden town status to Didcot represents a landmark opportunity for the town to instigate an ambitious, sustainable growth plan that prioritises inspiring green living through physical and social infrastructure. To provide clear focus a vision has been developed that is supported by three brand pillars (Didcot's unique assets) and three vision principles (the focus as everyone works together). These are supported by the foundation of six garden town principles that will embed this delivery plan into the district councils' two local plans. The structure is bespoke for Didcot, making the most of its unrivalled assets, whilst anchored in the ethos of the garden city movement.

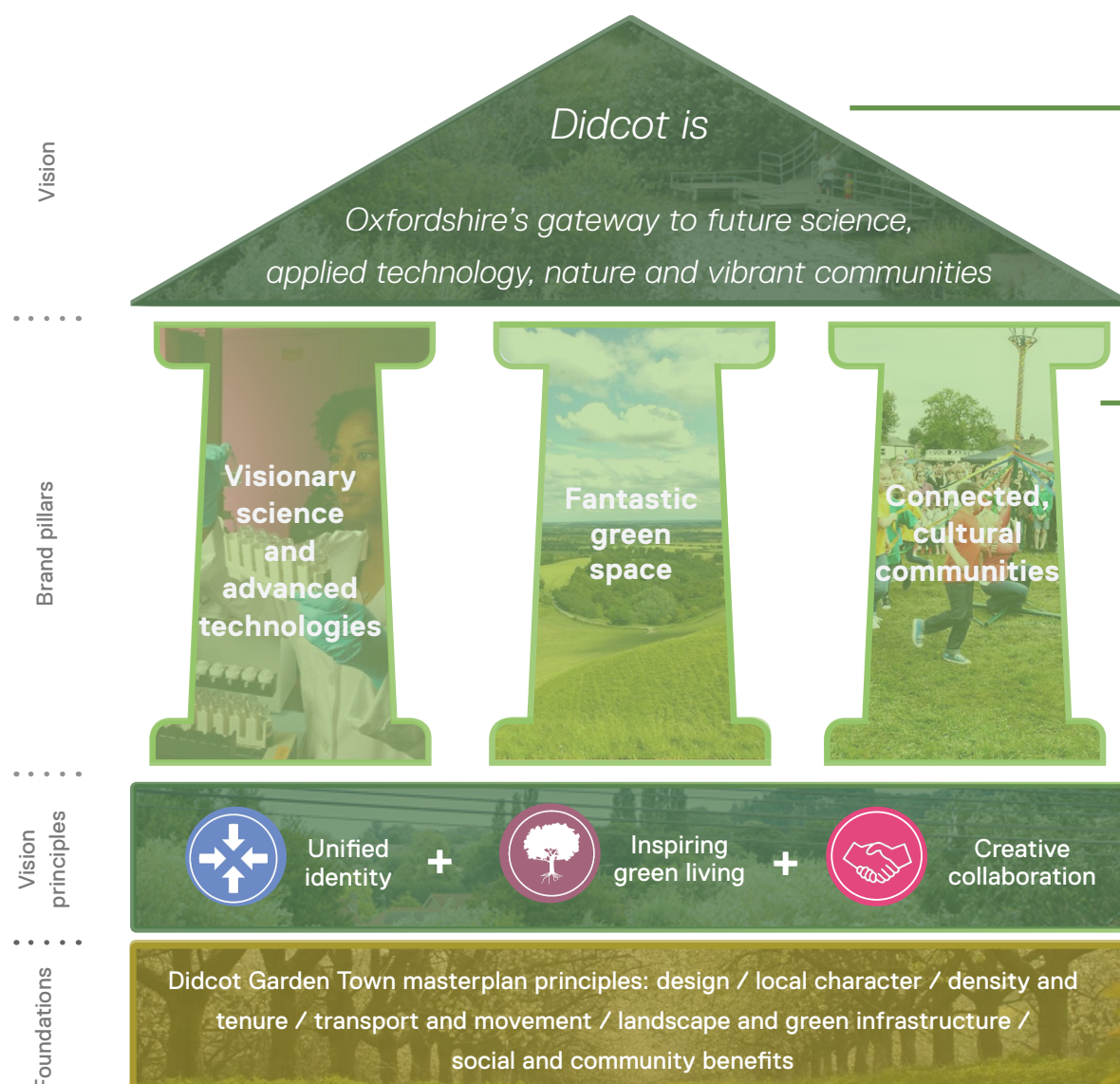






Figure 3.1 - Didcot Garden Town vision and principles




The vision for Didcot, providing a focus for everyone as the Didcot Garden Town project progresses.



The brand identity pillars develop a unique brand for Didcot that over time will attract attention, visitors and investment.



The vision principles guide the work of the garden town, ensuring a consistent approach to projects.



All of the work is built on the foundation, which consists of the garden town masterplan principles, as included in the emerging local plans.

3.1.3 The Didcot Garden Town vision

Didcot Garden Town's vision is to be:



Didcot Garden Town will be the county's home of sustainable living and inspiring future ideas, leading the way in solution driven creativity through proactive resident, worker and visitor participation.

Didcot Garden Town will be the internationally recognised gateway to Science Vale and its uniquely valuable surrounding landscape; a town that demonstrates progressive and sensitive planning and governance and architecture and design that reflects its locality and surrounding environment.

Participatory and collaborative working is the hallmark of the Garden Town. The people of Didcot will be empowered to create a whole-town network of inclusive, accessible and productive amenity green spaces, located in a culture of partnership, networks and co-production.

Didcot Garden Town will exemplify the 'contemporary green', lifestyle that places green technologies and energies, localism, health and wellbeing and active lifestyles at the foreground of its culture, infrastructure, planning and governance.

Sustainability

Sustainability is at the heart of this vision:

- sustainable via an "eco-first" approach to projects - e.g. green infrastructure and amenities prioritised
- sustainable via a confident, pioneering green ethos and public identity generated from these projects
- building a resilient community over time. Resilience means Didcot's communities have the ideas, the resources and the ingenuity to work together to create an ever-improving town and surrounding area environment

3.1.4 Brand pillars

Good transport infrastructure, high quality housing, strong social infrastructure and thriving retail are the essential basics to the branding of places, without which other more unique and aspirational things are not possible. Didcot Garden Town and its competitors will include all these basic components to attract new residents,

businesses, visitors and investment. But how will Didcot stand out? A compelling place brand identity needs to be about more than the broad-brush promotion of a high-quality environment for living, working and play. It must be developed around its unique assets.

Didcot's components of Science Vale, its environmental context (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), and its diverse communities are powerful unique selling points that have inspired much of the delivery plan. From this, Didcot Garden Town's three brand pillars can be articulated, which support the vision, and are the starting point for developing a strong unique identity.

Didcot's three brand pillars:



Figure 3.2 - Didcot's three brand pillars

Developing the brand identity

Didcot's unique assets should define the garden town's future identity. Together they have the potential to project a powerful and specific new narrative for the garden town. Developed into a unique brand they can drive attention, visitors and investment

and over time create a distinct identity and set of associations for what Didcot Garden Town means to the wider world.

The above three brand identity pillars can be combined to form a powerful brand proposition, which can be used

to create an identity for Didcot that differentiates it not just from other towns but also from other garden towns.

3.1.5 Vision principles

Achieving the vision and delivery plan requires the necessary sparks of creative thinking, audacious optimism, and genuine commitment to effective governance. Three vision principles underpin the vision and brand pillars

as the fundamental principles to work under to develop and implement this delivery plan. When adopted and consistently championed by the garden town’s governance structure, and bought into by external stakeholders,

the vision principles will help generate inspiring ideas and proposals and realise subsequent activities and projects.

Didcot’s vision pillars:



Figure 3.3 - Didcot’s vision principles

Case studies are offered on the next page as exemplars of aspects of each vision principle. They are drawn from a global cohort of practice: as marking a game-changer for the UK, Didcot Garden Town would in the future be the UK’s case study in this regard.

6 Garden town masterplan principles

Section, 3.1.6 outlines six Didcot Garden Town principles. These have been created as policy benchmarking tools to embed the vision and delivery

plan within the two local plans. As such they sit as the foundation for operational implementation, supporting the vision, brand identity and vision principles.

Vision principles case studies

Unified identity

*Festival Town:
The Hay Festival, Powys*

Described by Bill Clinton as “the Woodstock of the mind”, the Hay Festival of Literature & Arts is an annual literature festival held for ten days from May to June, which platforms a range of well established British and international writers. Building on the town’s existing ‘place brand’ as “the Town of Books” and its concentration of bookstores, the Festival occurred in a variety of locations across Hay-on-Wye including a local Primary School for its first seven years. The festival attracts major media sponsorship as well as support from universities and the British Council. It has expanded over the years to include musical performances, film previews and “Hay Fever”, a children’s festival - as well as internationally.

*Wayfinding:
Walk Brighton*

A city-wide, multi-modal wayfinding system for Brighton that reflects the character of the city and provides a distinct mapping style across a range of wayfinding initiatives. Using the same base map, the designers created a system of on-street signage, printed walking maps and a free WalkBrighton iPhone app. WalkBrighton was commissioned by Brighton & Hove City Council and designed by Applied Wayfinding in 2008.

*Interdisciplinary hub:
The Helsinki Challenge*

The Helsinki Challenge is a science-led multi partner innovation accelerator led by University of Helsinki in collaboration with 10 Finnish universities. In 2017, it is focused to find impactful and science based solutions addressing the sustainable development goals by the United Nations for 2030. Science and education teams develop solutions together with experts, advisors, artists, industry, media, decision makers and public sector.

Creative collaboration

*Cultural partnerships:
MakeCity, Berlin*

MakeCity is a festival focused on optimising Berlin’s spatial, material and civic resources, founded by over 100 partners from across urban, creative and community sectors. A co-designed programme engaged a city-wide conversation comprised of studio talks, tours, exhibitions and ‘happenings’. The programme focused on communities using social networks to pose problems of Berlin’s urban realm and propose design solutions.

*Collaborative governance:
Co-cities, global*

A co-city aims to create a more just and democratic city, based on urban co-governance which implies shared, collaborative, polycentric governance of the urban commons and in which environmental, cultural, knowledge and digital urban resources are co-managed through contractual or institutionalised public-private-community partnerships.

*Construction meets conservation:
Wallasea Island Wild Coast Project,
Essex*

Wallasea Island Wild Coast project is the largest conservation and engineering scheme in Europe. It aims to combat climate change and coastal flooding by recreating the region’s ancient wetland landscape of mudflats and saltmarsh, lagoons and pasture. Its vision is to provide, by 2025, a wetland landscape of 1,655 acres, which will act as a haven for an array of important wildlife and as a great place for people to enjoy. Central to its realisation is a partnership with Crossrail, which has a 95 per cent recycling target for its excavated earth - more than 4.5m tonnes of which is being transported to Wallasea.

Inspiring green living

*Eco-resilience:
Frieburg im Bresgau, Germany*

Renowned in Germany as an exemplar eco-city, Freiburg has a Green Mayor, a strong solar energy industry, two sustainable model districts, one which is car free with low energy consumption housing, one that has houses generating more energy than they consume. City-wide, its policy is to only build low-energy buildings on municipal land and all new housing must comply with low energy consumption. The city is known for a culture of cycling and recycling, and houses have solar panels, rain collection and solar heating.

*Land and food sharing:
Incredible Edible, Todmorden, Yorkshire*

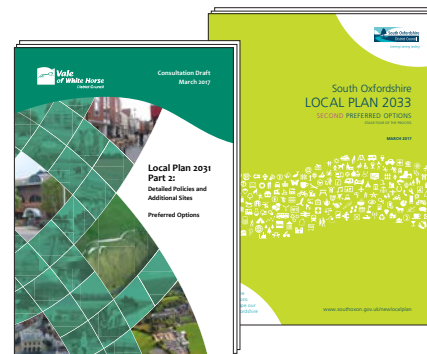
The Incredible Edible project is an urban gardening initiative that aims to bring people together through actions around local food. It aims to change behaviour towards the environment and to build a kinder and more resilient world. Since its conception in 2008, the Incredible Edible ethos has been taken up by communities all over the world and there are now 120 Incredible Edible official groups in the UK and more than 700 worldwide. In the UK, these groups’ collective success has begun to directly influence decision makers both on a national and local level. In response, the network has evolved from a resource for members into a fully fledged movement.

In autumn 2016 Incredible Edible worked with Sustainable Didcot to plant its first herb garden in Didcot town centre, next to the Cornerstone Arts Centre. This was followed by a fruit garden and was accompanied by events which ‘rehired’ unwanted vegetables and turned allotment food into free pumpkin soup.

3.1.6 Didcot garden town masterplan principles

The garden town masterplan principles (shown below) are incorporated in the emerging Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part 2 and South Oxfordshire Local Plan. These more specific principles provide a framework for

developers and landowners bringing forward new development in Didcot, and for residents who want to know what the garden town will look like in the future.



The foundation of the vision and brand:

Didcot Garden Town masterplan principles: design/ local character/ density and tenure/ transport and movement/ landscape and green infrastructure/ social and community benefits

1. Design

The garden town will be characterised by design that adds value to Didcot and endures over time; it will encourage pioneering architecture of buildings and careful urban design of the spaces in between, prioritising green spaces over roads and car parks. All new proposals should show the application of the Council's adopted design guide supplementary planning document and demonstrate best practice design standards.

2. Local character

The garden town will establish a confident and unique identity, becoming a destination in itself that is distinctive from surrounding towns and villages whilst respecting and protecting their rural character and setting. Didcot's identity will champion science, natural beauty, and green living, in part delivered through strengthened physical connections and active public and private sector collaboration with the Science Vale.

3. Density and tenure

The garden town will incorporate a variety of densities, housing types and tenures to meet the needs of a diverse community. This will include high density development in suitable locations in central Didcot and near sustainable transport hubs; higher density development will be balanced by good levels of public areas and accessible green space.

4. Transport and movement

The garden town will reduce reliance on motorised vehicles and will promote a step-change towards active and public transport through the creation of highly legible, attractive and accessible movement network and the appropriate location of housing, employment and leisure facilities. Cycling and pedestrian links between the garden town, its surrounding villages, and natural assets and the strategic employment sites will be enhanced.

5. Landscape and green infrastructure

New development in the garden town will enhance the natural environment, increase biodiversity and support climate resilience through the use of traditional measures and new technology. Innovative habitat planting and food growing zones will characterise the garden town and, in turn, these measures will support quality of life and public health.

6. Social and community benefits

The planning of the garden town will be community-focused, creating accessible and vibrant neighbourhoods around a strong town centre offer of cultural, recreational and commercial amenities that support well-being, social cohesion and vibrant communities. The garden town will embrace community participation throughout its evolution. It will promote community ownership of land and long-term stewardship of assets where desirable.



3.2

Bringing the vision to life

3.2.1 Early priorities

Imagine starting your day with local food and drink and sharing some quality time with your family before starting school or work, because your journey is convenient. Local travel is safe and enjoyable and increasingly carbon neutral, and there are accessible local events and activities that give you a stake in the town's future.

This lifestyle can be fully realised in Didcot through the vision, brand and principles. To begin on this journey, the delivery plan has identified nine 'early priorities' projects to initiate and deliver over the next few years following 2017.

Together they propose strong and accessible opportunities for community engagement to inform a real step change within Didcot's public areas, how it is connected, and the social collaboration that are so crucial to nurture from the outset.

These nine projects cover both community engagement and public space improvement.

Nine early priority projects

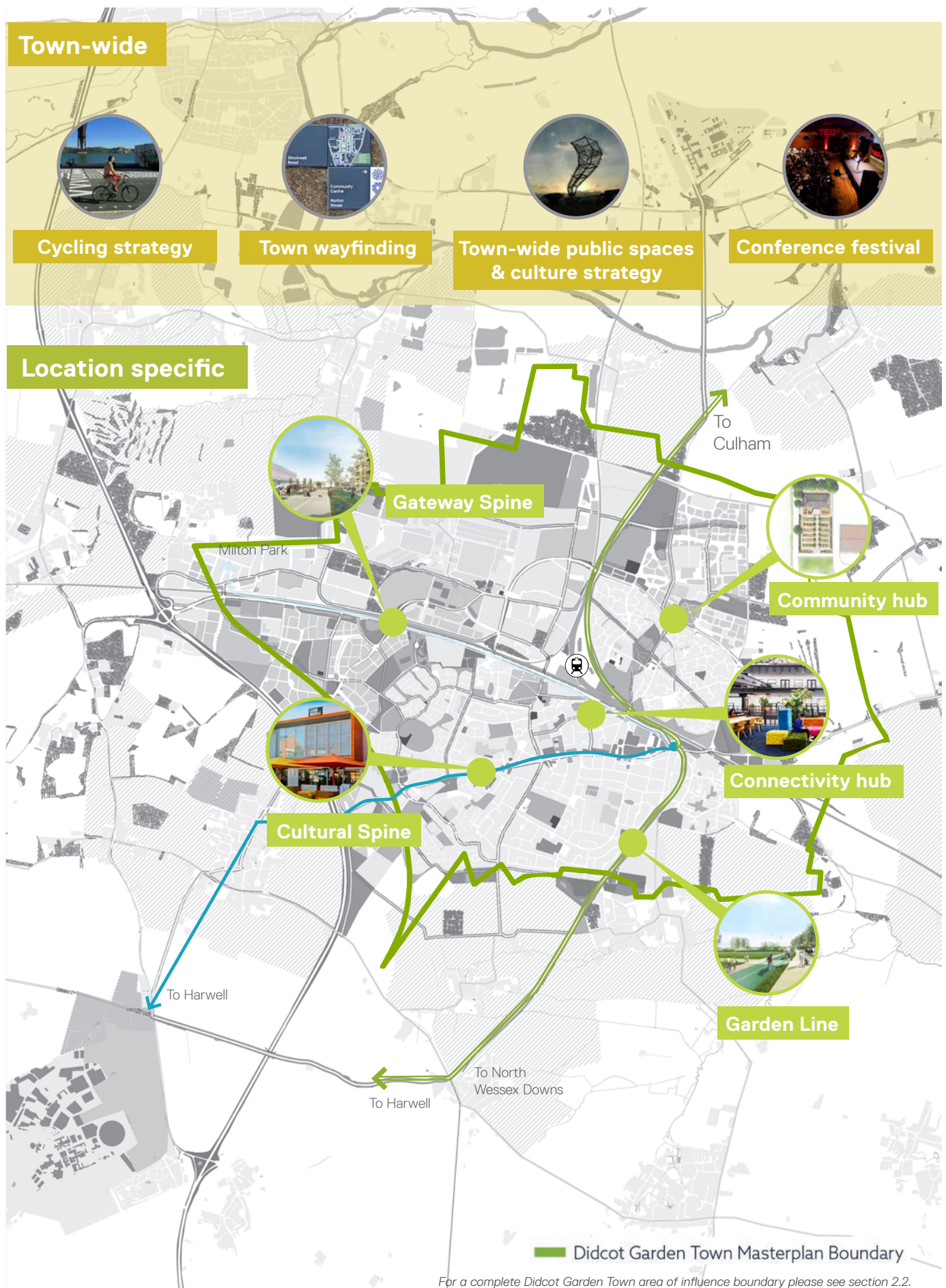


Figure 3.4 - Early priority projects



Cycling strategy

A town and region-wide strategy for cycling, collating and further developing the cycling proposals in this delivery plan. A framework to set out the phased delivery of a network and the connected infrastructure and community services along its routes. A guidebook for all of Didcot's stakeholders to engage with cycling and help bring forward a whole range of initiatives from training, clubs and events, to routes, storage, and community hubs.



Town wayfinding

Didcot is less legible than it could be, especially for new visitors. Improved signage, commissioned to an artist/ arts collective and with aspects of community participation, would aid visitors in getting around and improve the awareness residents and workers have of their town.

This proposal is for a series of clear branded signage including easily readable maps with key destinations and services on. The recommendation is for an initial basic signage system installed in the first one to two years, followed by a more advanced system including maps once the initial major projects have been completed. This wayfinding solution would sit alongside standard brown tourism signs for the town's arts and heritage venues.



Town-wide Public Spaces & Culture Strategy

Arts and culture can play a pivotal role in delivering a visionary garden town, both by creating inspiring visual and decorative enhancements, but also by bringing the local community and visitors together in placemaking, celebrating and nurturing an inspiring destination.

An area-wide strategy for commissioning public art and wayfinding initiatives to improve the look and feel and legibility of the town and its surrounding areas. A strategy would bring together other major opportunities such as creative working with Arts Council England, larger cultural investments from national partners, and further funds from major developer contributions from the planning system (via the public art policy within the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 funding). Commissions should include sculptural as well as community engagement in public spaces and support the proposed creation centre forming from Cornerstone Arts Centre.



Conference festival

With two of Europe's largest science parks and the intellectual as well as technological capital, experience and knowledge which each have on an international scale, as well as capitalising on the cultural assets of Didcot, a science and arts festival could be an easy win. This would combine a conference programme of global research and practice, as well as a town-wide programme of events and activities, taking place in venues and public spaces.

The conference would combine lectures by leading scientists, engineers, technologists and artists with open days at key spectacular facilities, such as JET at Culham, Diamond Light Source and the central laser facility on Harwell Campus and Cornerstone Arts Centre for example. Schools and community groups should also be involved in the programming and delivery, as well as the learning, in a genuine collaboration between arts and science engagement.

In its first year, the festival can focus on the goals of the garden town and bring in leading thinkers and doers from across sectors to work with the garden town and share best practice. Over time, the festival would become known as 'the' festival for interdisciplinary arts/ science research, practice and learning. The festival would sit within the Cornerstone's Arts Council England funding application for cultural investment, as well as attract further funding and sponsorship, and media attention. The festival would be well connected to London, Bristol, Bath and Oxford with Heathrow as an easy access point for international visitors.



Garden Line

A first phase of works to initiate the Garden Line route to improve existing cycling infrastructure to connect Didcot with Harwell and Culham. The first phase would be upgrading the route between Didcot and Harwell, future proofing it in line with the masterplan proposals (Section 9.4).



Community hub

A community garden and 'grow cook eat' facility for everyone in the town, located at an unused site adjoining the Co-op in Ladygrove. Developing community interest in local food growing is key to health, wellbeing and community and environmental sustainability. A suite of initiatives to engage with existing allotment societies and Sustainable Didcot to promote local food production should be organised. Set up pop-up shop for produce sale also stalls within Saturday farmers' market to boost local interest. Identify potential sites within villages to be included in neighbourhood plans for more commercial market gardening by local landowners and farmers. Research potential for involvement of bio-science and landowner groups.



Cultural Spine

A first phase of works to initiate the Cultural Spine route of the Broadway and Didcot Road (section 9.4.3). This will improve cycling infrastructure and the public spaces along the route.



Connectivity hub

A Didcot Garden Town hub, sited in close proximity to Didcot Station as an interim place to work, eat and drink, meet other community members, host cross community and cross sector workshops, meetings and events, host larger public events that combine the best science, arts, environmental and connectivity thinking, and in so doing be the focal centre for the Didcot Garden Town project. In its infancy it should develop in close collaboration with Cornerstone Arts Centre as the town's other key public venue. In the longer term the connectivity hub has the potential to be a unique space that symbolises all the key aspects of the garden town: inspiring sculpture, information centre, innovation hub, people's parliament, knowledge exchange space to solve the future challenges of the town and promote its innovation.



Gateway Spine

A first phase of works to initiate the proposed Gateway Spine route along the A4130 and Station Road (Section 9.4.4) to improve existing cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. The first phase would focus on future proofing it in line with the masterplan proposals.

Case studies to illustrate the first three proposed early priorities

1. Conference festival

Hay Festival

What started as a modest idea around a kitchen table 29 years ago has now grown into an annual 11 day festival of literature and the arts in the beautiful Brecon Beacons National Park in Wales, attracting over 100,000 visitors yearly. It brings together the most exciting writers, filmmakers, comedians, politicians and musicians

from around the globe and has expanded internationally with satellite events now taking place on all five continents.

Folkestone Triennial

Since its inception in 2008, Folkestone Triennial has rapidly established itself as a significant event in the international calendar of recurring art exhibitions. It

invites artists to engage with the rich cultural history and built environment of the locality, and to exhibit newly commissioned work in public spaces around the town. It is the flagship project of the Creative Foundation, an independent arts charity dedicated to enabling the regeneration of the seaside town of Folkestone through creative activity.

2. Town-wide public art and realm strategy

Deveron Projects

Based in a market town called Huntly in the north east of Scotland with a population of 4,500, Deveron Projects is an arts organisation that has been working with the history, context and identity of the town since 1995. It approaches the locale through a framework the town is the venue to create socially engaged projects that connect artists, communities and places by inhibiting, exploring, mapping and activating the town through artistically driven projects.

Art and The Public Realm Bristol

One of the leading cities in the UK for

public art commissioning and for its programme of projects with artists of local, national and international significance is Bristol. Its Art and the Public Realm Bristol programme focusses on the development and showcasing of visionary public art works outside the conventional gallery and museum setting. Bristol City Council adopted its Public Art Strategy in 2003 and the programme has since supported the realisation of over 100 commissions within a diverse range of contexts. The council provides a strategic role in the development of art in the public realm and is responsible for providing planning approval for art works.

Plymouth Public Art Plan

Arts producers Situations worked with artists and organisations from across the city of Plymouth to develop The Plymouth Principles – a set of guiding principles for the commissioning and development of arts in the public realm. They set out opportunities and visions for art in the city to offer new kinds of cultural experience in the public realm and across unconventional spaces, to nurture its talent and to create opportunities for both resident and visiting artists to respond and contribute to Plymouth's built and natural environment, living culture and heritage.

3. Cycling strategy

Indianapolis Cultural Trail

The Indianapolis Cultural Trail is an award-winning eight mile urban bike and pedestrian path in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana. It seamlessly connects neighbourhoods, cultural districts and entertainment amenities while serving as the downtown hub for the city centre's vast greenway system, and is managed by a non-profit incorporated company. The trail is recognised for enriching the lives of

Indianapolis residents and visitors by providing a beautiful connection to each other, culture, art and healthy living.

Utrecht - We All Cycle!

The rapidly growing city of Utrecht in the Netherlands has adopted a position that bicycle should play a major role in keeping the city livable, accessible and economically strong. While the transition to a genuine cycling city is

still ongoing, Utrecht has implemented several policies and invested in a long list of projects over the past five years to improve the city's cycling climate. "Utrecht – we all cycle!" is the overarching action plan to elaborate on the coalition agreement "Utrecht Attractive and Accessible" and the city council's decree to consider the bicycle the most important means of transport.

3.2.2 Beyond early priorities

Nurturing creative opportunities

It is best to understand the early priorities projects proposed for 2017-20 not as one-offs, but as initial iterations of longer-term journeys that the garden town aspires to take itself and its communities upon. They are identified because they can be done quickly, and because they are reasonably cost-effective - so demonstrating Didcot's commitment to translate ideas into action. They, and all future projects initiated by the garden town's governance structure, should be tested for success against a cross-cutting evaluation framework that connects to the vision principles and the garden town's strategic development goals.

As an example, the conference festival described on the previous page is a

prototype that could, if developed over time, become a ideas sharing conference for Didcot - the UK's leading annual thought leadership conference connecting advanced scientific research with the 'citizen science' movement and the intricacies of urban development. Equally, it could become a weekend family event, bringing generations together and making science accessible through playful cultural experiences, signposting vocational opportunities to young people in the process. Or it could become a permanent new building with a year-round programme of events - and some stakeholders have indicated an interest in this. The best solution will emerge from multiple iterations that are analysed for value against key questions, and which are designed as open initiatives - ones that are visible places for congregation and which let

in diverse participant groups.

Valuable lessons will be learnt along the way. Not every aspect of every project will work as expected (or necessarily, at all), and transformational success might come from unexpected places. The course should be flexible and responsive, but it is important to stay the course, so the garden town can discover what works most powerfully for its communities and so that the implementation of the delivery plan is understood as an ongoing, creative endeavour - one undertaken with a range of communities.

3.2.3 Next steps

Strategies

The early priorities (3.2.1) identify the need to produce five strategies, as listed below. Three strategies related to arts and culture, public spaces and cycling are central to the garden town's future road map, implementation process and budget allocation. A wider landscape masterplan strategy (green and blue infrastructure) should also be developed and coupled with a strategy for encouraging strong community involvement and enhancing existing neighbourhoods.

- Arts & culture (inc. public art)
- Public Spaces (inc. wayfinding)
- Cycling
- Green and blue infrastructure
- Enhanced neighbourhoods

Feasibility studies

Aligned to the strategies, the following five spatially specific early priority recommendations should be detailed through feasibility studies to create robust proposals with clear phased implementation plans that can unlock costed first stages of delivery.

- Cultural Spine
- Gateway Spine
- Garden Line
- Connectivity hub
- Community hub

Inspiring, inclusive stakeholder engagement & partnership

The strategies and feasibility studies commissioning should contain integrated stakeholder engagement. These can be kick started by implementing the conference festival Early Priority with a two to three year events plan that leads to the festival. A year one mini festival, coupled with community based workshops and projects.

This events plan should be developed and delivered in collaborative partnership with the key local organisations across science, arts & culture, education and environment. It can deliver inspiring, inclusive community activities, and at the same time build the strong stakeholder community partnerships that are imperative for the success of the garden town governance model.



Glasswork at Boundary Park sports pavilion, Great Western Park © Martin Donlin

