

GROWING TOGETHER

the Lottery funded Big Local programme for Blackthorn, Cherry Lodge, Goldings, Lings, Lumbertubs and Overstone Lodge estates in east Northampton

Second Big Local Plan

and spend proposals for

April 2016 to March 2018

Adopted by the Community Partnership on 24 March 2016



Prologue: Our first Big Local Plan

The first Big Local Plan for the Growing Together area in east Northampton ran from August 2013 to March 2015 and was extended by a year on 27 March 2015. It was developed over the period from March 2012 to May 2013, approved by the Growing Together Community Partnership on 20 June 2013 and formally endorsed by Local Trust on 28 August 2013.

Agreement was later reached to align the Plan years with standard UK financial years. This document therefore uses throughout the numbering of years that this agreement created, as follows

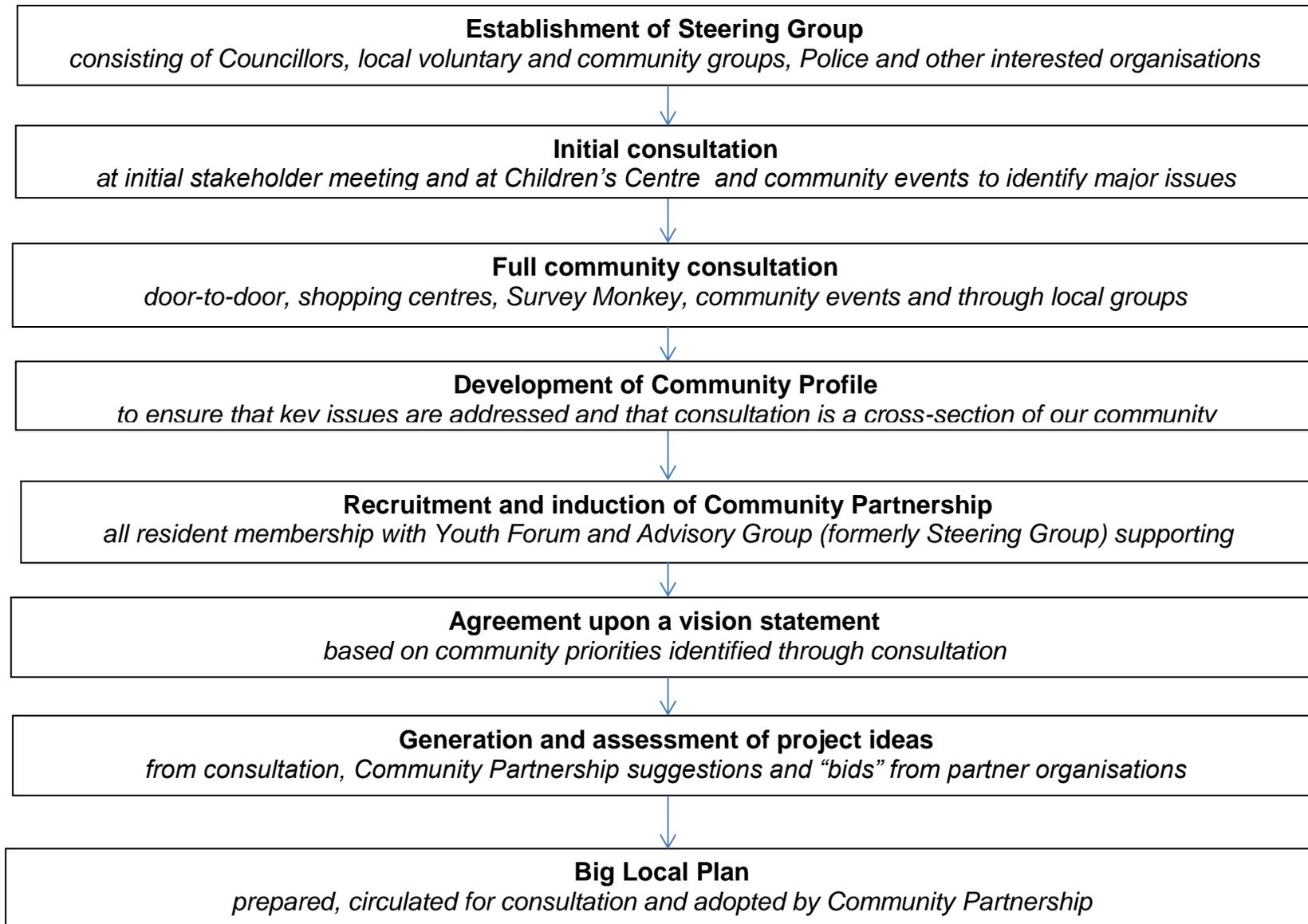
Year One	2013/4 (part year)
Year Two	2014/5
Year Three	2015/6
Year Four	2016/7
Year Five	2017/8
Year Six	2018/9

During the extended consultation period, local people were encouraged to put themselves forward for membership of the Community Partnership. The Steering Group set up to drive the development of the programme then agreed that the Partnership itself should be an all resident body. Its own work would come to an end shortly after the Partnership had been accredited by Local Trust. This accreditation was confirmed on 25 June, prior to submission of the Big Local Plan.

The Community Partnership began life with 15 members. Prior to accreditation there was a series of three induction sessions, mixing team building activities with discussions about conduct, expectations, a constitution and the content of the initial Pathfinder programme of activities:

The development of this first Big Local Plan followed the pathway set out below:

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A. How the Community Partnership has worked

The Community Partnership now (February 2016) consists of 16 members. Since initial accreditation, five new members have joined and four have resigned. The resignations were all related to changing health or other personal circumstances and/or inability to commit the amount of time required to keep up. One member moved out of the area but was co-opted back into full voting membership.

Four members of the partnership are from BME backgrounds and three declare a disability. Ages range from teens to sixties, and eight members are in work. All five of our operational estates are represented.

The Partnership meets every month and a number of working groups have been set up for various specific purposes. A standing Small Grant Panel has taken decisions on community grants up to about £1,000, those these decisions will be brought back into the full Partnership with effect from April 2016.

The posts of Chair and Deputy Chair are put up for re-election every year and Andrea McAuliffe and Dianne Finnie have been re-elected every year to date.

Peter Strachan remains in post as Programme Co-ordinator, working 25 hours a week.

B. Changes to the Community Profile

The Community Profile used for the first Big Local Plan is reproduced as Appendix A. There have been no major changes over the period; the Profile has been scrutinised carefully as part of the preparation for our Neighbourhood Plan. However, the following changes have occurred:

The one functioning pub, the Pig & Whistle on Blackthorn estate, has closed and the building has been taken over by Blackthorn Good Neighbours (BGN), our LTO. The ground floor has become a community nursery, mainly funded by the Government voucher scheme, and the top floor has office space occupied by BGN, Growing Together and one of our main youth work partners, Free 2 Talk.

The increasingly dilapidated Silver Horse building on Goldings was finally demolished by its owner in early 2016. We understand he now intends to submit a planning application to build flats there.

BGN lost the contract to run Blackthorn Children's centre to Action for Children in a re-tendering exercise undertaken during 2015. The building is still leased to BGN and functions as a Community Centre in the evenings and at weekends.

The Food Bank run by Emmanuel Church and other voluntary organisations report a worrying rise in the incidence of extreme poverty. Typically, this is associated with the impact of the bedroom tax, the replacement of DLA with PIP, and other benefit eligibility changes and employment insecurity due to the operation of zero hours contracts.

C. Implementation of the Plan, 2013-6

Details of spend from September 2013 to March 2016 are included as an Excel spreadsheet in Appendix Two.

A total of £560,399 has been spent or committed, though in practice £45,551 will be carried forward to offset against planned Year Four and Five spend.

The following are the major quality of life improvements that have been undertaken as a result of this spending:

- three new play areas created on Lings, Lumbertubs and Overstone Lodge estates
- two youth shelters at Blackthorn Recreation Ground and Swanhaven Park, each with its own exercise equipment
- illustrated wildlife information boards in Swanhaven Park
- a "trim trail" of outdoor exercise equipment in Swanhaven Park
- ongoing funding for youth activities at Blackthorn Community Centre, Brookside Hall and Goldcrest Community Centre and adventurous outdoor youth programmes run by Change of Scene. Also contributed to Reelscape's film based youth programmes and have covered the cost of Impact Now's youth work at various centres around the estates
- we've contributed £20,000 to enable the new Nursery in Blackthorn to open on time
- a new club on each estate for older residents and ongoing inter-club activities run by Age UK under their Get Set Go programme
- a well-used seat around a tree at Billing Brook Road shops
- enabled Lings Primary School to create new Environmental and Performance Zones, to be available for community as well as the School's use

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- 36 grants of between a few hundred and two thousand pounds each to 21 different organisations for projects in the community. These have included statutory bodies such as schools and the Police, together with a wide range of local charities and community groups
- organised a programme of community events around the five estates and supported residents wanting to volunteer to make the community stronger and more caring (this programme was terminated when the project worker moved on)

Additionally, Growing Together has led on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for the area. Developed under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, our Neighbourhood Plan – once adopted – will form a legally binding tier of the planning system that requires the local authority to follow the expressed wishes of local people when deciding what is and isn't approved for development in our area. The Plan should be ready for submission to Northampton Borough Council in the near future and the next stage will be a local referendum on its adoption.

The work has been entirely funded by grants from Locality, though work previously undertaken for the Big Local Plan has contributed to the content. The Neighbourhood Forum that oversees the Plan consists of the Community Partnership and the members of the former Big Local Steering Group

D. Review of the first Big Local Plan by the Community Partnership

A full review of the programme from was concluded at a dedicated Partnership awayday held on 29 October 2015 and attended by all but two of the Partnership's members. The Review also drew upon a Partnership Review questionnaire completed by Partnership members in May 2015 and widespread public consultation during July and August 2015 on whether projects undertaken to date addressed the top community priorities.

Although the review confirmed that we are broadly happy with the current direction of the programme (supported by findings from community consultation – see Section F below), it did identify a number of key challenges and learning points. The principal findings for the new Big Local Plan were as follows. A commentary on response follows each point:

- i) Progress with larger projects has often been slower than envisaged for a variety of operational reasons.

Practical lessons have been learned and built into the project management arrangements for implementing the second Big Local Plan. This includes doing much more provisional work as the Plan has been developed, so that implementation can start as soon as the budget is confirmed.

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- ii) Although many individual officers and members have been most co-operative, Northampton Borough Council have not been as helpful as we believe they could have been, judging from the experience of other Big Local programmes

We have built on contacts developed with the new administration following the May 2015 local government elections and this has hugely improved the level of support provided. NBC have now agreed to undertake all routine maintenance of the play and exercise areas we have installed and, from now on, will place all major order for future play and exercise facilities on our behalf, thus saving the VAT liability for further community investment.

- iii) We have suffered repeated frustrations in our attempts to engage the wider community and our approach to this needs to be fundamentally re-thought. A new approach needs to incorporate more focussed patch working and a permanent physical presence on Lings and Lumbertubs estates especially.

This is fully addressed in the proposal to develop a permanent Community Hub at the Brookside shopping centre, serving the two Brookside estates. This will be the base for a dedicated community development worker. This person will be a BGN employee and will also work closely with a new community development worker, funded by Children in Need, who will focus more on our other three estates. Money has also been earmarked in the new budget to support community development initiatives emerging from BGN's work on the estates to the east of Lings Way.

- iv) The need to tackle the escalating environmental problems along Billing Brook and its three amenity lakes has become an important emerging priority over the past three years.

This work has been developing rapidly since last summer. Growing Together is now recognised by all interested parties as the lead agency in co-ordinating partnership efforts to address the problems. A small budget provision has been allocated to match funds earmarked by the Environment Agency, but our real impact is likely to come from the leverage produced by continuing with this co-ordination role.

- v) With over half of our funds now spent or committed, we need to develop an effective exit strategy

The Partnership has since agreed that our exit strategy should be developed by investing in BGN so that they can eventually continue the work we have started. We have commenced a process, based on Organisation Development (OD) principles, that will lead to a much closer relationship with BGN and possibly even a full merger. The Board of BGN have

fully committed themselves, in principle, to the changes in operating area, governance and possibly even identity that may be required. Some financial provision has been included in this Big Local Plan to support these efforts.

E. Revised Statement of Vision and Objectives

At the 29 October review awayday, the Community Partnership re-affirmed its Vision for the area it serves as follows:

Growing Together wants the estates of Blackthorn, Goldings, Lings, Lumbertubs and Overstone Lodge to be great places in which to live and to grow up, where residents care for each other, the community and their environment.

The Partnership also decided to amend the programme's statement of priorities as follows:

- *investing in children and young people*
- *improving the quality of life for older and disabled residents*
- *creating a vibrant and exciting community for everyone*
- *enhancing and protecting the local environment*
- *bringing together our diverse and changing community, including new communities*

These changes do not alter our overall direction, but reflect more accurately the way our thinking has evolved since summer 2013.

F. Consultation on the second Big Local Plan

Over the summer of 2015 we have undertaken extensive consultation to ensure that the community remains broadly supportive of our progress so far and to seek views on our future direction. Consultation, of course, isn't just a set-piece activity for a community led programme such as ours. Through-out the implementation of our first Big Local Plan we have maintained a constant dialogue with our communities both directly from our own work and via our various partner organisations like the youth groups we fund, Age UK, Blackthorn Nursery and others.

Specifically for this Plan, we spoke to residents through the following channels:

Consultation events

We used stalls at community events such as Blackthorn Community Day, Brookside Spring Festival and a programme of consultation towards the Neighbourhood Plan to hand out leaflets about our work and invite responses.

Online

As well as our own website (GrowingTogetherNN3.org.uk), we also used Streetlife to ask for views on what we should do in the second half of our programme.

Streetlife is a social media platform enabling members of the community to share views and information about their area. Our area falls into the Great Billing “Local Conversation” area. We posted a story under the heading “Looking for ideas on how to spend around half a million quid” and invited responses.

This produced replies from 12 residents. Some of these were for projects outside our area and others were for things we were already doing. However, some good Small Grants ideas were generated and, most exciting, we identified a location for a play area on Goldings that looks feasible; we had hitherto been unable to provide play facilities on this estate due to lack of a suitable site.

Door-to-door

Through-out August we knocked on all doors along seventeen selected “courts”, chosen for their geographical spread and a range of distances from established Growing Together projects.

In total this resulted in 164 doorstep conversations with residents. All households which didn’t answer the door – or where the respondent didn’t have time to talk – received a leaflet outlining what we’ve done so far and giving the contact details for them to suggest any further ideas. We also left the same leaflet with people we interviewed so that they could read it at leisure and contact us afterwards if they had any further ideas.

There was a fairly representative spread of ages and ethnic backgrounds, with women and disabled people being slightly over-represented in the sample, as is to be expected for this kind of consultation. The fact that schools were on holiday and also that we were able to work into the evening on some days meant that we spoke to more men and working age people than during the 2012/3 door-knocking for the first Big Local Plan, conducted during winter months. Language problems meant that we had to

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abandon a number of interviews with eastern European residents at an early stage (these are not included in the total of 164 quoted above).

Residents were asked:

1. whether they had heard of Growing Together
2. whether they knew of the specific projects we are supporting
3. whether they thought our priorities are the right ones
4. what new things they'd like to see us funding during the second half of our programme.

Only 24 out of the 164 interviewees (14.6%) immediately recognised the Growing Together name/logo, though a further 57 people (34.7%) either knew of and/or had used specific projects we had funded or had heard of the £1m Lottery grant. Recognition was higher west of Lings Way where people had seen our play areas or improvements to Swanhaven Park, though residents east of Lings Way knew of our support for the Nursery or Arlbury Road Community Centre. Other than our projects, residents said they had heard of us through *The Banner* (local residents' association newsletter), Streetlife, Lings School publicity or the Neighbourhood Plan.

All but two people interviewed thought we had got the priorities right. Many people said they could think of nothing else and that we should just continue to do what we were already doing. Of the two who disagreed with our priorities, one person said we should just give the money to the Council to tidy the area up if it was something we couldn't do ourselves, and one person would have devoted all the money to a massive community engagement programme in order to restore a lost sense of community spirit on our estates.

With regard to other things that people would like to see us doing, a number of possible new projects/priorities had very widespread support.

Lumbertubs

- further enhancement of Swanhaven Park
- a new play area on the fields between the Weston Favell centre and Penistone Road

Lings

- improvement of Swanhaven Park, including football facilities on the field leading up to Lodge Farm
- enthusiasm among dog owners for the idea of providing dog agility equipment

Goldings/Overstone Lodge

- demolish the Silver Horse or bring it back into use: there is a sense of outrage/disgust on these estates about the state of the building.
- there is also a strong desire for a play area on the estate, though news of the planned play area in Foxcovert Wood was welcomed.

Blackthorn

- more facilities for young people: news of the youth shelter was welcomed and a number of residents thought more could be done with the Recreation Ground.

G. Development of the 2016-8 Big Local Plan

The outcomes from the consultation exercise reported above were reported to the review awayday held on 29 October 2015. In addition to informing the conclusions of the review, we also fed the information we'd gained from the community into an initial consideration of priorities for the coming two years and beyond.

This initial discussion was then developed through the major discussion items at the Community Partnership's three meetings held on 26 November 2015 and 28 January and 25 February 2016. The major provisional decisions taken at these meetings were as follows:

- we would continue to pursue an exit strategy via investment in BGN (our LTO) to enable them to take our work forward once we'd spent the Big Local money

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- this investment would be subject to a number of conditions requiring BGN to align their governance and operational area more closely with our own. In particular we wanted to see them strengthen their presence in Lings and Lumbertubs estates to the west of Lings Way.
- in order to encourage independence and sustainability, we would phase out revenue grants to our major partners by offering them up to two thirds of ongoing project costs in 2016/7 and one-third in 2017/8. We would want to see evidence of match before releasing any grants agreed.
- subject to this condition, we supported in principle making ongoing grants to four existing project partners – Age UK, Free 2 Talk, Change of Scene and Impact Now – and one new partner, Emmanuel Church youth club.
- we would allocate up to £30K for a new play area on Goldings. (Other sites suggested during the community consultation were rejected either by the Partnership or as a result of consultation with the Police on suitability)
- up to £10K of capital investment in new facilities at the BGN Nursery was approved
- other investment at BGN would take the form of a fundraising strategy, a development fund for new initiatives (to be approved specifically by the Partnership before draw down) and a new Community Hub for Lings and Lumbertubs in a vacant shop unit at the Brookside shops, serving the two estates
- core costs for the next two years, including the Programme Co-ordinator's hours and salary, were confirmed

The February meeting also set up a budget working group with a remit to review all budget provisional decisions and to recommend a final budget for the next two years to the Partnership's meeting of 24 March 2016. The working group was given a target of ensuring that a minimum of £100K was still available for 2018/9 to ensure that key projects (such as the Brookside Community Hub) could be supported for a further three years.

At that meeting on 24 March, the full Community Partnership approved the budget for 2016/7 and 2017/8 appended to this Big Local Plan.

H. Activities proposed

The following notes outline the projects approved in the two year budget.

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Blackthorn nursery outdoor play

Creation of a covered year round outdoor play area and associated toilet facilities that children can use without supervision. Conforms to best practice and recommended by OFSTED in their inspection of the nursery.

Swanhaven Park dog area

Dog agility area at local park. Previously approved by Partnership and supported by community consultation.

Scouts Belgium trip

Part funding of educational visit to Belgium to visit First World war battlefields. Rest of funding has been raised by Scout Group's own fundraising activities e.g. bag-packing days at Tesco.

Lings Gardening Club and Blackthorn Community Garden

Ongoing resident led community gardening projects on two of our estates.

Free 2 Talk, Change of Scene, Impact Now and Emmanuel Church youth club

Local community based youth activities funded previously and with ongoing funded to be provided on our agreed taper-out basis of two-thirds of costs in 2016/7 and one-third in 2017/8.

Age UK Get Set Go

Ongoing activities for older people on our estates, funded on the same taper-out basis as for youth groups.

Brookside Community Hub

Rental of two adjacent shop units (one a very small kiosk) at Brookside Shops to establish community hub with 20 hour/week Community Development Worker and all ongoing running and activity costs. Year Four funding includes one-off costs of setting up the Hub. Responds to both local consultation and exit strategy conditions relating to BGN's capacity on these two estates.

Fundraising strategy and BGN Development Fund

Further elements of our investment in BGN. The Development Fund is an earmarking and the organisation will need to come back to the Partnership for approval of any proposals to draw on this money before it can be used.

Junior Wardens

Hugely successful project run in local primary schools by NBC Environmental Wardens and Police, raising awareness of Year Five pupils of the need to take care of their own living environment.

Goldings play area

Play facilities for the only one of our five estates not yet to have had such investment. The play area will be designed and built by local company Miracle and will be for the full age range from 5 to 13 year olds.

Billing Brook Lakes

Match funding for money earmarked by the Environment Agency to tackle major problems being experienced along watercourse and amenity lakes flowing through the main area of parkland in our area. The top priority of local residents on Lings and Lumbertubs estates during the summer 2015 community consultation exercise.

Community Grants Fund

Successor to the former very successful Small Grants Fund. Decisions from now on will be taken by the full Community Partnership rather than a separate Panel, and restrictions on grant size will therefore be removed. Gives Partnership flexibility to support unbudgetted schemes arising from local community activity. The Partnership also decided to move to a more commissioning based approach to encourage the filling of gaps in current provision. This is to begin immediately with approaches to organisations working in the field of mental health.

I. Note on Year Six (2018/9)

Although this budget is only for two years, it has been prepared with a view to enabling a full sixth year of operation of the programme. The focus of this will be ensuring that the Brookside Community Hub and other new BGN activities can be supported for a full three years from this point to give them the maximum chance of long-term success.

Appendices

Spend to date spreadsheet (MS Excel)

Proposed budget (MS Excel)

Community profile

Appendix One

Community Profile (reproduced from 2013-6 Big Local Plan)

The physical environment

Location

The Growing Together operational area is located in the north-east of Northampton. It consists principally of five estates included in the pre-2010 Lumbertubs electoral Ward. These are Blackthorn , Goldings, Overstone Lodge, Lings and Lumbertubs. (The more affluent infill areas of Cherry Lodge and Lingswood Park fall within the boundary and we would react to requests for assistance from them, however we do not work pro-actively there). The Ward has since been broken up by the Boundaries Commission and the four estates fall between Brookside, Talavera and Rectory Farm Wards.

Like the rest of Northampton East, the estates were originally developed on greenfield sites in the late 1960s/early 1970s to house a “London overspill” population. This recent history does mean that there is often a sense of belonging that is unusual an urban area. Older local residents from across the area are able to refer to a shared past of migration in the way that only BME and Irish communities might do elsewhere. The reverse side to this strong community identity is that Northampton East is still stigmatised by some as run-down and crime-ridden, not really an integral part of the town. The area has also become home to a sizeable number of BME residents and migrants from eastern and middle Europe.

The estates were developed as Council housing and Northampton Borough Council remains by far the largest landlord. The Right to Buy policies introduced in the 1980s, however, mean that well over half of the housing is now in owner-occupation or the private rented sector. Much of the area was developed according to now discredited Radburn principles and the estates suffer from high “permeability”, limited vehicular access and a lack of “defensible space” around houses, all of which are now regarded as being helpful to criminal activity.

The original housing stock is coming to the end of its projected life and is in need of major capital investment. The estates consist of a mixture of flats and three to five bedroomed houses. Most of the flats are in low rise blocks of six flats, though there are three high rise blocks in Lumbertubs. Newer private or mixed tenure estates are interspersed with the original stock.

The countryside is never far away and many of the street names provide a direct link to the rural past: Old Barn Court, Great Meadow, the Paddocks etc. Some original farm buildings still stand. The area remains blessed with abundant open natural space. At the centre are the 22 hectares of Lings Wood. The Wood is managed on behalf of Northampton Borough Council by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. The Trust has a base at the 1940s built Lings House in the middle of the woods, from which a variety of conservation and educational activities are run. Even so, Northampton Borough Council's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and Audit (2009) found that the programme area falls below national planning guidelines for the area devoted to children's and young people's facilities and allotments.

Facilities and developments

Generally speaking, facilities are provided on an estate by estate basis, with having its own school and local shopping centre (shared in the case of Lings and Lumbertubs). Usually this is restricted to a general store and newsagent and some fast food outlets. There is, however, a major district retail centre at Weston Favell with a Tesco supermarket and branches of many other high street chain retailers, together with banking and library facilities.

A pub once also formed a part of each estate's hub, but two of the three have since been closed down due to poor commercial viability and the focus they were providing for criminal activity. The Millwheel at the Lings/Lumbertubs centre is now a community centre with a fast food outlet and a hairdresser, while the decaying Silver Horse building on Goldings has recently been sold to a local entrepreneur for redevelopment as a child care centre with flats above. Only the Pig and Whistle at Blackthorn continues to trade as a pub.

There is also a major leisure centre at Weston Favell, a multi-practice health centre, and the main church and other facilities offered by the Emmanuel Group of Churches. There is a District Police Station and a Catholic Church only a couple of minutes' walk from Weston Favell. In addition to the four GP practices in the centre at Weston Favell centre, there is also a Medical Centre on Tonmead Road, next to Lumbertubs Primary School. Arlbury Road in Blackthorn consists of single storey housing dedicated to the needs of older and disabled people and has its own social centre. There is further worship provision for the Bah'ai faith in Lumbertubs, the Muslim community at The Brookside Hall, the Hindu community at Lodge Farm Community Centre, and two additional churches: Storehouse Church on Lings and the Church Of Christ at Shadowfax Drive, Overstone Lodge.

A number of new developments are in progress at the time of writing. Planning permission has been granted for the building of a Hindu temple on land off Lings Way; the temple will serve the needs of the Hindu community from across and beyond Northampton. There is a new development of 11 shared ownership houses on the site of the former Robinson House hostel.

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Sure Start Children’s Centres at Thorplands and Blackthorn provide a wide variety of facilities and support services to families with pre-school children, including play and child care, health and financial advice. Roughly speaking, Lings and Lumbertubs are in the catchment area for the Thorplands Centre, while Blackthorn and Goldings (plus the eastern part of Lings) are served by Blackthorn. Although a number of pre-school facilities exist, a shortage of child care capacity is a widely recognised issue.

Four primary schools, principally, cover the area: Lumbertubs, Lings, Wood Vale and Blackthorn, with the majority of pupils continuing into secondary education at either Northampton Academy or Weston Favell. Others will go on to Northampton School for Girls, Northampton School for Boys or Thomas Becket RC School – or further afield still.

The only functioning Residents’ Association in the area is Brookside Residents Council, which covers the Lings and Lumbertubs estates. Blackthorn Good Neighbours (BGN) run the Blackthorn Children’s and Community Centre as well as being the Locally Trusted Organisation for Growing Together. The former Millwheel pub building is now Brookside Hall, a community centre hosting a wide variety of activities. The rent paid by a fast food outlet and a hairdresser contribute to the Hall’s overheads, while the programme of voluntary and educational activities run there is self-funding.

Population

The total population of the former electoral Ward was 9,067 people in June 2010.

There are 4,751 households, as follows. For comparison, the numbers of households by estate consulted for this Plan are also detailed and their percentage equivalent

Estate	Households	Percentage	Responses	Consultation
Blackthorn/Cherry Lodge	1814	38.74%	174	34.8%
Lings	1193	25.11%	125	25%
Goldings/Overstone Lodge	910	19.15%	111	22.2%
Lumbertubs	834	17.55%	90	18%%

The principal source of population profiling data is, of course, the 2011 Census. However, Census data is no longer collated or published by electoral ward, but by Middle layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs), subdivided into Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). The Growing Together area falls with eight SOAs.

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- The majority of the area is covered by the Northampton 007 MSOA. This MSOA falls entirely within the Growing Together Area and comprises 5,901 residents (i.e. 65% approx. of the total population). It does not include Goldings or Lumbertubs.
- SOA 004A covers Lumbertubs, again falling entirely within the Growing Together area. It has a population of 1,575 (17.37 of the total).
- Goldings falls within LSOA 005E, which also includes a significant part of Southfields. LSOA 005E has 1,854 residents.
- Shadowfax Drive and the streets running off it are included in Rectory Farm. They are not considered here as they form so small a part of that SOA.

The following table shows the Census information for gender, disability, age, ethnicity and language from these SOAs. All numbers are percentages. The table also shows the profile of first stage consultees for this Community Plan. It should be noted that the data for age only include people from 13 upwards as younger children were not included in the consultation at this stage.

Numbers will not add up to 100% due to rounding; within the languages data, only information about selected major language is given.

	Blackthorn & Lings (MSOA 007)	Goldings (LSOA 005E)	Lumbertubs (LSOA 004A)	Northampton	Consultation
Sex					
Male	48.36	46.44	50.92	49.11	32.2
Female	51.36	53.55	49.07	50.88	67.8
Reporting a disability	18.3	14.77	16.57	19.18	19.4
Age					
Teens	13.81	13.73	18.3	10.39	9.8
20s	18.06	20.45	19.6	18.44	18.6
30s	18.39	21.42	20.51	18.26	21
40s	15.98	17.19	17.54	17.36	14
50s	14.63	12.69	12.12	13.56	15.6

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60s	12.16	8.66	8.23	11.39	13.6
70s	5.22	4.02	2.97	6.72	6.4
80s	1.82	1.8	0.68	3.83	1
<i>Ethnicity</i>					
White (British)	65.85	72.79	59.74	76.55	75.6
White (Other)	7.04	7.87	11.23	7.96	7.2
Mixed	4.42	4.09	5.84	3.22	1.4
Asian (Indian sub-continent)	9.71	3.12	7.61	5.68	4.8
Black/Black British	11.16	10.78	13.26	5.06	9.4
Other	1.79	1.34	2.28	1.51	0.4
<i>A number of consultation respondents did not provide ethnicity information.</i>					
<i>Main language spoken</i>					
English	81.83	89.32	83.17	89.92	Not asked
Other European language	4.05	5.54	8.27	4.66	Not asked
of which, Polish	1.96	2.97	2.42	2.67	Not asked
Russian	0.45	0.05	0.6	0.36	Not asked
South Asian languages	4.79	0.81	3.36	2.21	Not asked
African languages	1.71	2.68	2.89	0.96	Not asked
of which, Somali	0.47	1.28	0.87	0.32	Not asked
<i>Not able to speak English</i> well or at all	3.21	1.75	3.55	2.32	Not asked

Observations on the Census data

The census data suggest that, by comparison with Northampton as a whole, the population of the Growing Together area:

- has more teenagers
- has fewer people in their 70s and 80s
- is more ethnically diverse, especially with regard to the Black/African populations

None of these differences are especially marked.

Quality of Life issues

The principal source of quality of life data for the area is the most recent Index of Multiple Deprivation, compiled in 2010 (IMD2007). IMD is updated every three years. This nationwide data-set divides the country into over 33,000 neighbourhoods, known as Super Output Areas (or SOAs) and combines eight sub-sets (“domains”) to produce a top to bottom ranking of all 33,000 plus SOAs. The eight domains are also ranked separately. These are as follows:

- Income
- Employment
- Health and disability
- Education, Training and skills
- Crime and disorder
- Quality of living environment
- Barriers to housing and services

The area consists of 6 Super Output Areas (SOAs). The percentage rankings for these according to IMD 2010 are as follows (the lower the percentage score, the more deprived the neighbourhood). The location descriptions are only an indication of the area covered by each SOA and it should be noted that some of them take in streets that are not in the Growing Together project area.

SOA location	Overall	Income	Employment	Health & disability	Educ'n, training and skills	Crime & disorder	Env. quality	Barriers to housing/ services
Lumbertubs estate	12	19.24	13.6	14.65	10.91	0.8	56.3	33.35
East Lings	26.85	22.75	35.32	40.45	14.51	4.45	81.66	59.85
Cherry Lodge	29.89	22.44	33.09	36.28	15.99	13.51	73.66	81.9
West Lings	11.45	14	10.73	9.78	9.06	5.13	64.21	52.15
Blackthorn	8.17	3.97	16.74	15.04	2.2	6.05	73.86	61.71
Goldings	13.84	16.35	27.88	21.82	3.18	2.26	54.5	37.18

Other than pockets of relative affluence in Cherry Lodge and the eastern part of Lings (predominantly the privately owned Paddocks and Priors Courts), the general picture is of an overall deprivation position ranging from 13.84% in the case Goldings to 8.17% for Blackthorn. Lumbertubs, west Lings, Blackthorn and Golding are all in the bottom 15% nationally, with Blackthorn in the bottom 10%. Some of these overall scores mask considerable differences. Cherry Lodge includes the relatively deprived Maidencastle area as well as much more affluent streets on the other side of Cherry Lodge Road, while Goldings includes a number of recent private housing developments as well as the highly deprived areas around Dryley's, Crestline and Prentice Courts and the Treetops flats.

Looking at the specific domains, a different picture emerges:

- the very low scores under the crime domain, common across most of Northampton East, stand out. Lumbertubs estate falls in the bottom 1% nationally
- income deprivation in Blackthorn and the level of skills and qualifications in Blackthorn and Goldings are of real concern
- generally low scores for educational attainment across the area do not bode well for the social mobility of future generations
- environmental quality is fairly high, reflecting the green spaces and proximity to open countryside
- barriers to services and housing (a measure of homelessness, access to housing, housing conditions and distance from essential services) is likewise reasonably good
- health and disability scores are good, other than on Lumbertubs and part of the Lings estate, perhaps reflecting the relatively young age profile of the area.

It is also of concern that the very large majority of scores have declined since the previous (2007) Indices. Some of these declines, especially in Goldings (Health & Disability and Employment) have been quite dramatic.

These statistical findings are reflected in the high priority given by residents to tackling crime and making the area feels safer and the need to invest in opportunities for children and teenagers.

Employment and barriers to employment

The IMD data quote above suggest that unemployment is a serious issue, especially on Blackthorn and Lumbertubs estates and the western part of Lings (i.e. other than the Priors and Paddock Courts and Old Barn Court). The most recent data on household unemployment at this level is from the Census and it confirms much higher levels of unemployment than in Northampton as a whole. The data is for households where the person completing the census form was unemployed

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A number of barriers to employment other than qualification levels are also evidenced by Census data on car ownership, lone parent households and households with a full-time carer (i.e. providing 20 hours or more of unpaid care) in the following table.

	Blackthorn and Lings (MSOA 007)	Goldings (LSOA 005E)	Lumbertubs (LSOA 004A)	Northampton
Unemployed households	6.3%	8.2%	8.07%	3.51%
Households without a car	34.8%	30.6%	36.7%	24.4%
Households with one car	41.9%	47.2%	42.7%	43.1%
Households with 2 cars	18.9%	17.3%	16.8%	25.7%
Lone parent households	14.9%	18.9%	12.9%	8.5%
Households with a carer providing 20 hours or more of unpaid care per week	4.3%	3.7%	3.0%	3.3%

The poor availability of child care has already been noted. The estates also suffer from poor public transport links, which hamper job opportunities for those without access to a car. Bus links to the Weston Favell centre and on into Northampton town centre are adequate. However, links between the estates and to other centres of employment are much more problematic, involving long journeys and multiple changes. In many cases, a fairly short on-the-ground journey can only be completed by travelling into Northampton town centre and then travelling back out again.

Other than the Weston Favell District centre and public sector provision, there are very few employment opportunities available within or close to the programme area. Next closest are Round Spinney and Moulton Park.

Quality of housing

Northampton Borough Council's own Stock Condition Survey (2010) found that Council housing in the programme area is in poor condition and, without investment, will not meet nationally recognised 'Decent Home Standards':

- Blackthorn: 427 of the 495 homes were expected to become non-decent by 2013 (86%)
- Lings: 283 of the 303 homes were expected to become non-decent by 2013 (93%)

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- Lumbertubs: 163 of the 244 homes were becoming non-decent by 2013 (67%)
- Overstone Lodge: 114 of the 117 homes were expected to become non-decent by 2013 (97%)
- Goldings: 246 of the 284 homes were expected to become non-decent by 2013 (87%)

The two most common reason for properties failing to meet the Decent Homes Standard are poor repair (76%) and poor heating (20%).