



BERN^UICIA

Community Investment Strategy Summary

2026-2031

About Bernicia

- We're one of the largest housing associations in the North East, established for over 50 years
- We're rooted in the North East providing almost 14,000 homes from Northumberland to Teesside
- We offer a wide range of housing including general needs, older person homes, supported living and shared ownership
- Our Corporate Strategy "Bernicia Effect – Supporting Opportunity" sets out how we'll deliver our services over the period 2026-2031
- Our strategic objectives include
 - Investing in Homes and Communities
 - Working Collaboratively Across the North East
- Between 2026-2031 we'll build up to 1,000 new homes and invest £400m in homes and neighbourhoods.



Community Investment Strategy

- As a socially responsible organisation, we understand the importance of supporting people, communities and the environment.
- Our Community Investment Strategy (CIS) is part of a wider framework of plans which cover our approach to corporate social responsibility
- We build communities and our social impact affects the lives of people living there, now and for generations in the future
- As an anchor institution, we are rooted in communities and focused on their wellbeing.
- Services are shaped by consulting with people living in neighbourhoods and engaging them in decision-making processes
- The CIS sets out how we support our tenants and communities beyond providing housing services.
- It helps us deliver the commitments we made in our Corporate Strategy
- This document provides a shortened summary of the CIS.

What We'll Do Employment Opportunity

- Our primary objective is to address poverty through good employment
- Our main focus will be on supporting our tenants, young people and delivering on our commitments to the Care Leaver and Armed Forces covenants
- We'll work in schools and colleges to help support aspiration and skills
- We'll work with our tenants and our communities on a 1-2-1 basis, providing a wraparound employability support programme
- Our frontline delivery experience will help us understand and identify need
- We'll work with partner organisations and local businesses to deliver targeted programmes
- We'll use our business to provide opportunities in the form of work experience, apprenticeships and placements
- We'll collaborate with North East Housing Partnership partners to deliver funded and/or coordinated programmes
- Regional priorities. The North East Mayoral Strategic Authority identified clear areas of focus that align to our priorities - including work as a route out of poverty - linked to child poverty, and opportunities for social housing tenants, care leavers and armed forces.



What We'll Do Community Opportunity

- **We'll help people live well in their homes by**

- Providing the right type of homes in the right locations
- Enabling people to move around their homes safely and confidently
- Delivering affordable warmth programmes based on improved energy efficiency
- Providing emergency call support, offering reassurance to vulnerable clients and their families
- Supporting those people at risk of losing their tenancies with extra support and targeted advice, including money management and benefits advice
- Providing safeguarding services for those at risk
- Offering homeless services to those in need, including holistic support
- Linking our community teams and housing teams to maximise opportunities
- Being a source of reliable advice and support



- **We'll help people live well in their communities by**

- Providing safe and attractive spaces
- Providing access to community facilities
- Working with our suppliers to create social value opportunities
- Working with other anchor institutions to deliver joint and coordinated services
- Supporting voluntary and charity groups to deliver services
- Providing community buildings which enable groups to meet and access free or low-cost activities
- Addressing anti-social behaviour and providing diversionary activities
- Delivering community events

How We'll Measure Success

We'll use a combination of social value metrics, outputs, and case studies to record our progress

We'll be targeted in the outcomes that we measure to ensure they align with our priorities

We'll publish an annual report to provide updates on our progress

By 2031 we will have contributed towards the creation of £30 million of social value



Conclusion



• We've been delivering social value activities in our communities, and for our tenants, for many years. It's built into our DNA.



• Much of what we do is delivered on a daily basis by our teams, alongside and as an enhancement to our housing services.

◦ It drives our decision making on placemaking and supports our service planning.



• We have further enhanced this with the introduction of employability services to help people take their next step forward.



• We're committed to helping people to thrive and to provide opportunities where we can.

◦ That's why it's at the heart of our Corporate Strategy and why we have a dedicated Community Investment Strategy to make sure it happens.