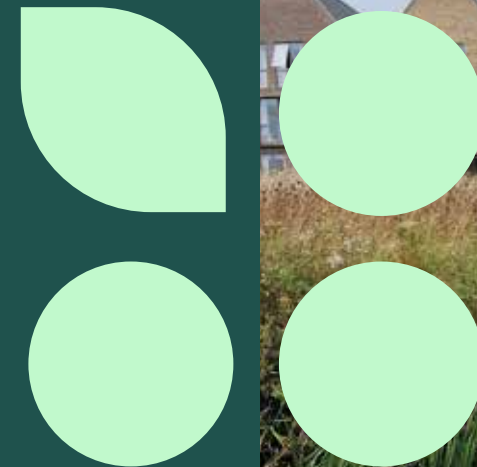


DRAFT FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

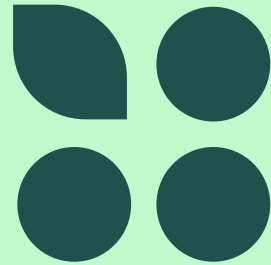
# Our charter for sustainable growth. Garden Communities



## Programme charter

A series of linked Garden Communities  
in North Gloucestershire.





## Tewkesbury Borough is growing fast, with high economic growth and an increasing population.

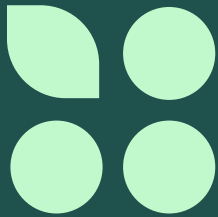
**Tewkesbury Borough Council has a role to play to ensure that we manage this growth in the best possible way.**

This includes planning for the building of new homes rather than letting development take place in an ad hoc manner, and supporting businesses so that they can flourish and continue to provide employment and prosperity.

Hand-in-hand with development, we also need to make sure there is a matching provision of education, roads capacity, sustainable travel and community facilities.

The garden communities programme aims to do just this, striving to maintain an environmentally sustainable approach to development while helping local communities to flourish.

# Contents



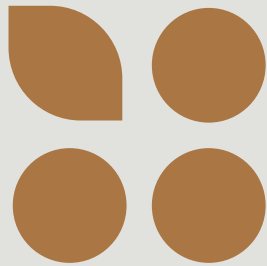
|   |    |
|---|----|
| Foreword.....   | 04 |
| Garden Communities.....   | 05 |
| Existing vision.....  | 06 |
| Journey so far.....   | 07 |
| Indicative Garden Community locations.....  | 08 |
| Garden Communities development principles.....  | 09 |
| Respect existing communities and reflect local character.....                               | 10 |
| A strong identity and character of place.....   | 11 |
| Interconnected water infrastructure.....  | 12 |
| Carbon neutral communities and building sustainably for climate resilience.....             | 13 |
| Great green spaces for people and wildlife.....   | 14 |
| Sustainable wider connectivity.....   | 15 |
| Integrated live, work, play communities.....  | 16 |
| Owned and rented homes, housing types and densities for supporting diverse communities..... | 17 |
| Promoting community ownership and longer-term stewardship.....                              | 18 |
| Stakeholder endorsement of our charter.....   | 19 |

## Disclaimer

The information and ideas shared in this document are intended as guidance only. The concept outlined is consistent with the sustainable development goals of the national garden communities programme. At this stage, the principles for development are not set out in local planning policy or endorsed by any local planning authority. Any proposals will still need to be tested through a review of the local development plan, due to start in Winter 2023.



# Foreword



**A new approach to the delivery of the garden communities programme was approved by Tewkesbury Borough Council in July 2023. The programme includes a commitment to increased community engagement and better collaboration with partners and developers.**

The decision came after a gateway review of the programme earlier in 2023. The review found no key concerns with the aims or the principles of the garden town. A number of important recommendations were suggested to boost the programme's delivery. These particularly touched on community engagement and collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

A reflection of this clear commitment to valuable engagement was considered throughout the production of this working draft charter document. It has been developed to encourage delivery of a series of linked garden communities in preference to a garden town. Throughout, it is important to

align the local expectations of the project with the final result. The content of this draft charter is based around nine key principles (see page 9), which draw from the UK garden communities Model of Development. These may change or adapt following feedback on this document.

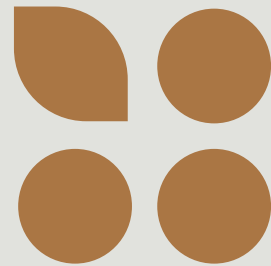
There has also been much debate about the naming of garden communities. Respecting existing communities and their identity will be vital to success, so, as proposed garden communities come forward, stakeholders endorsing this charter commit to involving existing communities when considering the naming of new areas.

---

**By supporting this charter, we set our expectations of the delivery of the garden communities to ensure these are the priority, and developers can ensure the principles of the garden communities are met.**



# Garden Communities



**What are they? They are part of a government programme which looks to promote the new development of well designed, sustainable communities.**

**These communities will be fully planned and led by a set of principles summarised on page 9.**

The goal is to help create vibrant, multi-use and characterful areas where people can live, work and play for generations to come.

Our garden communities are located to the east of the M5 motorway, spanning across the railway and north and south of the A46.

# Developing a new vision

Initial feedback from engagement sessions in 2023 highlighted that the previous vision needed updating.



To deliver well-planned development in a way which supports Tewkesbury residents, business and the wider community to fulfil their potential. Making Tewkesbury the hub, which serves and supports the wider heartland. A place which drives the success of the borough.

An updated vision will be developed and finalised through engagement on this draft charter.

# Garden Communities journey

Awarded Garden  
Town status  
**2019**

+ Gateway Review  
+ Engagement workshops  
**2023**

Development will  
begin between  
**2026-2035**

**2021**  
Concept plan

**2023-2026**  
Framework planning  
Planning exactly what is  
happening - and how and by  
whom it will be developed.

**2035-2050**  
Completion  
depending on scale  
Creation of new  
communities

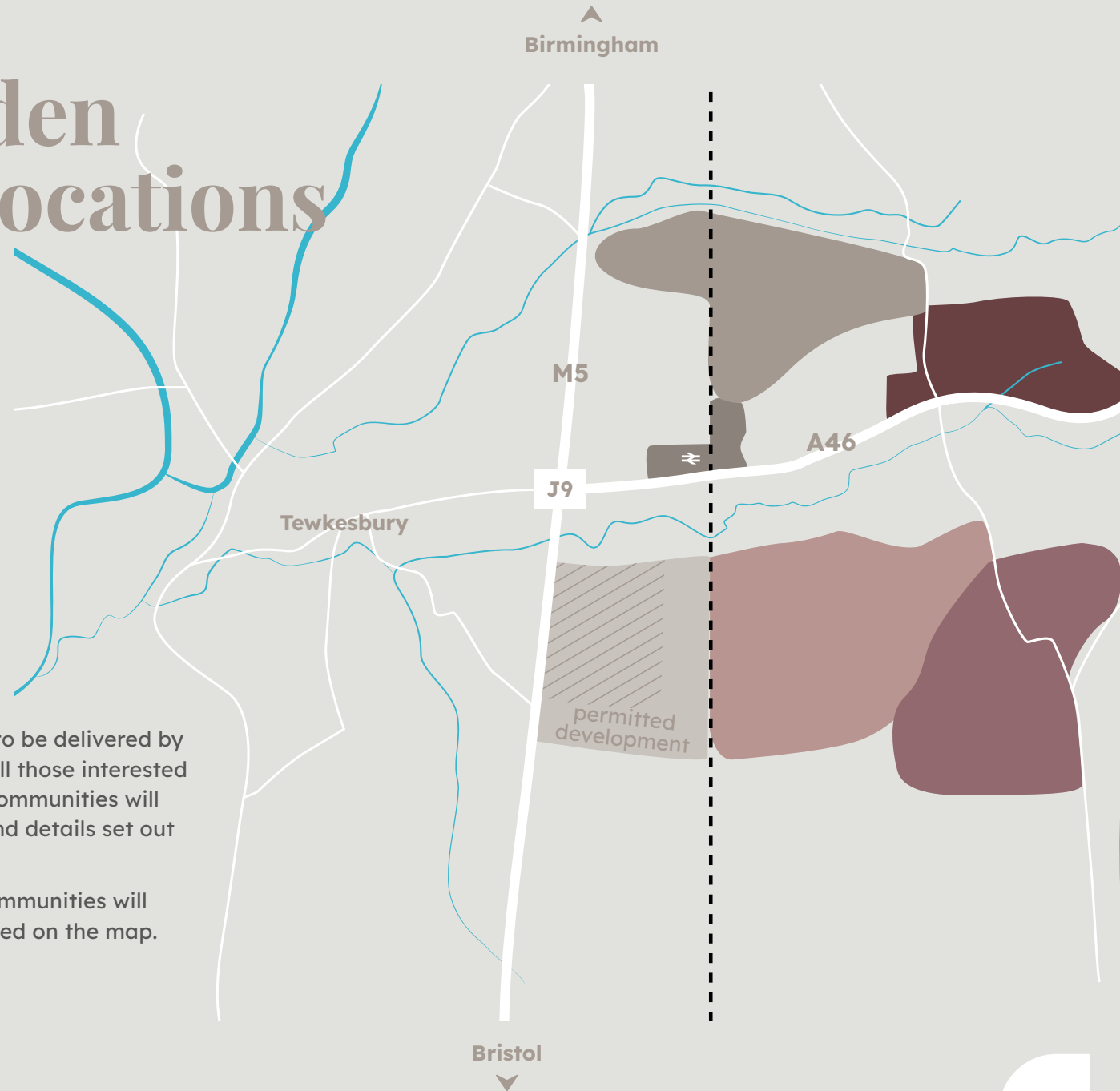
# Indicative Garden Communities locations

The proposed garden communities programme covers a wide area. From the urban edge of Tewkesbury to more rural areas leading to the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).



The garden communities are likely to be delivered by a number of different developers. All those interested in the development of the garden communities will need to respond to the principles and details set out in this charter.

It is anticipated that the garden communities will cover six potential areas, as indicated on the map.




(Note: specific proposals in some of these locations are not yet known)





# Development principles




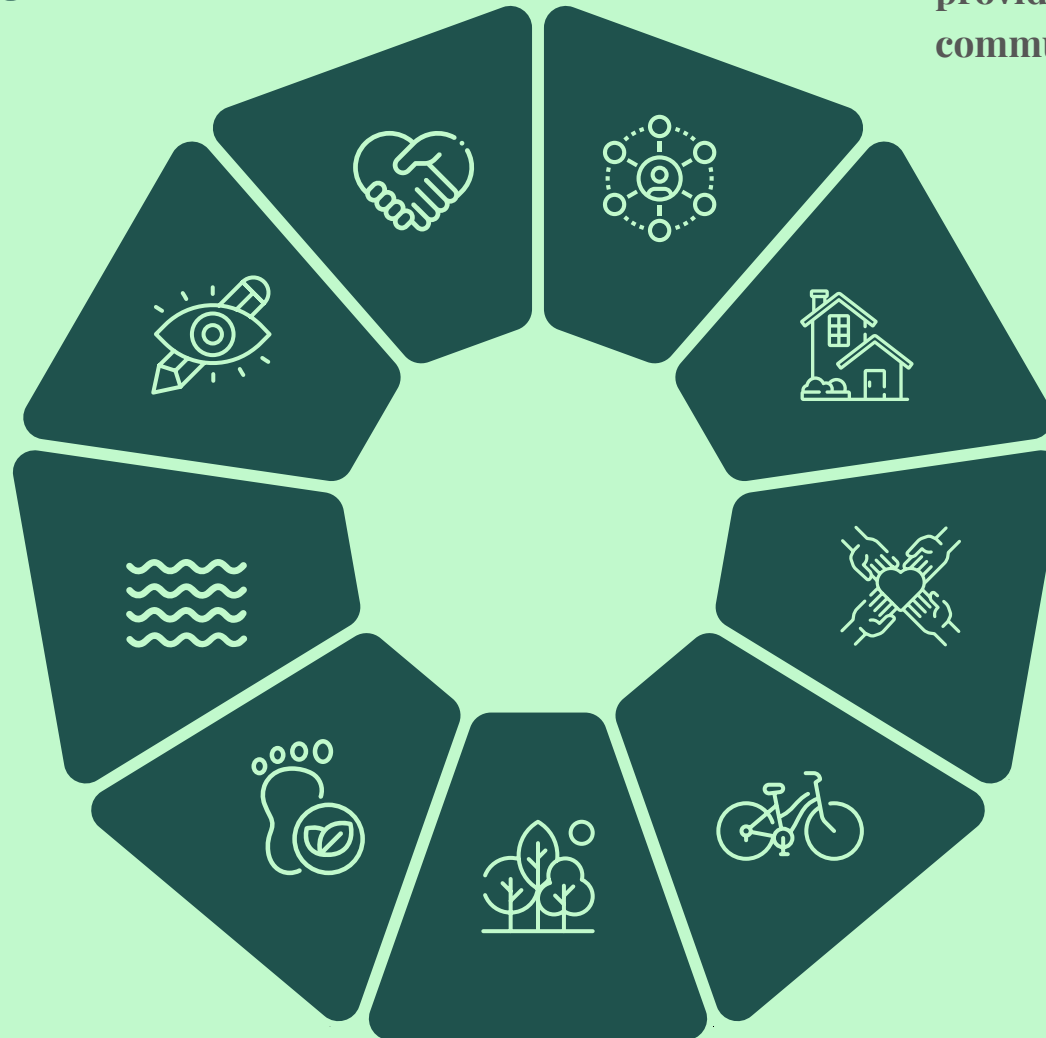
Our principles are interconnected - by complementing one another, they are designed to provide flourishing, prosperous communities.


 Respect existing communities and reflect local character


 A strong identity and character of place


 Interconnected water infrastructure (ponds, brooks, streams, and rivers)


 Carbon-neutral communities and building sustainably for climate resilience




 Great green spaces for people and wildlife

 Sustainable wider connectivity

 Integrated live, work, play communities

 Owned and rented homes, housing types and densities supporting diverse communities

 Promoting community ownership and longer-term stewardship



## Respect existing communities and reflect local character.

**The garden communities will complement and connect to the Tewkesbury area. This includes neighbouring settlements and the surrounding landscape.**

Tewkesbury is a special place. The garden communities must support sustainable growth where possible. The programme will need to add to its success as a vibrant and historic market town.

### We must see:

- Tewkesbury's central role in the borough protected and enhanced.
- Existing communities becoming engaged in the process.
- The protection and enhancement of historic villages and their landscape.
- The protection of historic rights of way and improved access to the countryside beyond the garden communities.
- Travel routes from the garden communities to the heart of the town centre.
- The protection of mature trees, hedgerows and walking paths.
- The creation of major public green spaces around the Carrant and Tirlle brooks.
- A clear strategy of how to link the town centre with new areas and addressing the needs of existing communities through new developments.





## A strong identity and character of place.

**The garden communities will each be unique, yet rooted to Tewkesbury through use of materials and embracing its art and culture. They will help conserve and enhance the existing local villages.**

Boosting their character and the borough's identity as a great place to live and work, the programme will take influence from the historic area.

A series of new interconnected communities will be created. Each settlement will reflect their local context but in total form one coherent community.

### We must see:

- Existing communities to get involved in the process, sharing understanding of what makes each area unique.
- A distinct series of settlements within a rural setting.
- Different scales of public open spaces, connecting communities with nature from major green corridors to small community gardens and green streets.
- An understanding of historic landscape character and protection of important natural features. For example, hedgerows, watercourses and field patterns.
- Human scale development with streets designed for people, not cars.
- A variety of structural styles. These range from tight-knit urban development around the station to new villages that reflect their rural area.
- Public buildings such as schools and community centres to be at the heart of each new community.
- A clear strategy of how to link the town centre with new areas and addressing the needs of existing communities through new developments.

# Principles



## Interconnected water infrastructure (ponds, brooks, streams, and rivers).

**The garden communities will build climate resilience by protecting and enhancing existing watercourses.**

They will support the retention of water in safe areas. More so, they will help to protect Tewkesbury and surrounding communities from the worst impacts of climate change.

The garden communities will celebrate water, such as creating a new landscape of ponds, meadows and rain gardens that create space for leisure and wildlife.

### We must see:

- Existing watercourses protected and enhanced for nature and recreation.
- Creative solutions for flood and water management that support the unique identity of the garden communities.
- Thinking across the garden communities to create a landscape to reduce water run-off issues that the area faces.
- Water infrastructure to be attractive and a valued part of the public realm.
- Future proofed proposals to ensure climate resilience in the future.





## Carbon-neutral communities and building sustainably for climate resilience.

**The garden communities will contribute to a carbon-neutral community. They aim to support Tewkesbury's climate resilience from construction to use.**

A programme sustainability plan will be developed to support the borough's carbon reduction strategy. The strategy will be in response to the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

### We must see:

- Compact and connected new communities that promote walking, cycling and public transport over private cars.
- Walkable communities where residents have easy access to schools, jobs and leisure.
- New homes that meet the Future Homes and Buildings Standards.
- New homes and public buildings that reduce the need for energy. This includes the use of energy-efficient building materials and Passivhaus design techniques.
- Smart monitoring of water use, energy use and waste generation to preserve precious resources.
- The use of renewable energy through Photovoltaic (PV) panels, heat pumps or similar on all new buildings.
- Careful selection of materials within the public realm and buildings to reduce carbon.
- The use of permeable materials that help to reduce water run-off in extreme weather events.

# Principles



## Great green spaces for people and wildlife.

**The garden communities will follow the existing landscape. They will reflect Gloucestershire's history and the special relationship between communities and the land.**

The garden communities will value the protection of existing features. The communities will both embrace the natural landscape and create attractive new spaces. The goal is to support residents' physical and mental wellbeing and to connect people with nature.

### We must see:

- A minimum of 50% of the garden communities area allocated to public green spaces.
- Existing landscape features protected and improved to add character within the garden communities.
- New publicly accessible landscapes that protect and buffer existing communities.
- Significant new green corridors around the Carrant and Tirlle Brooks.
- A network of greenways and quiet lanes to preserve the rural character and give access to green spaces.
- Nature outside every home – through a network of open spaces, community gardens, street trees and pocket parks.
- A minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain delivered. Aimed to support ecological resilience and recovery.
- Inclusive public space for all ages. Set to promote health and wellbeing through exercise, play and community interaction.
- Space for growing fruit and vegetables on a community level.





## Sustainable wider connectivity.

**The garden communities will be well-connected to each other and to Tewkesbury, ensuring that residents of both places are linked.**

They will deliver sustainable travel options, so that most journeys can be via walking, cycling, bus and train.

### We must see:

- Focus on walking, cycling and improved access to public transport. Plus, access to Ashchurch for Tewkesbury train station.
- Communities that are compact and mixed use, allowing residents to reduce their need to travel long distances.
- Attractive walking and cycle routes across the garden communities. Plus, better access to local schools and the town centre.
- Streets designed for people, not cars. Including a maximum 20mph speed limit throughout the garden communities and removing parking from the streets.
- Promotion of cycling across the garden communities through safe and convenient routes, away from primary roads.
- Use of data and local information to support active and sustainable travel.
- Delivery of infrastructure in advance of large numbers of new homes.
- The A46 to become a more attractive route for walking and cycling.
- The delivery of a strategic traffic solution to reduce existing congestion and support housing and economic growth.

# Principles



## Integrated live, work, play communities.

**The garden communities will be an inclusive, desirable place to live, work and play. Funding from planning gain will help support this.**

A new network of neighbourhood centres, these can provide easy access to shops, community facilities and important services like healthcare.

New employment areas to the south of the A46 will be accessible by sustainable travel options.

These will be well-connected to new and existing communities.

### We must see:

- Local live/work units, co-working space and employment sites for high-value sector growth.
- Focal points for each community. Such as large village centres with schools, shops and business spaces, to small neighbourhood hubs. These will create a space to meet neighbours and friends, grab a coffee or nip to the shops.
- New public green spaces that deliver fantastic play and leisure space for all ages. These will be at the heart of each community.
- New health facilities to be accessible for everyone within the garden communities.
- New primary and secondary schools that allow children to walk and cycle to school.
- Improved services from Ashchurch for Tewkesbury station. These will enable sustainable access to other employment centres in the region.
- High speed internet access to all properties to support digitalisation.
- Accessible and inclusive sports facilities. Facilities should be affordable for residents and support existing clubs in Tewkesbury to grow and thrive.







## Owned and rented homes, housing types and densities to supporting diverse communities.

**The garden communities will be beautiful and inclusive places to live. They will be designed to welcome residents and visitors.**

We want to encourage civic pride, investment and ownership by those who call it home. Each community will want to retain or develop its own unique identity, but also reflect the character of the wider area, adding a specific focus on existing architecture and locally distinctive materials to build new homes.

### **We must see:**

- Affordable homes that meet the needs of the borough.
- Efficient use of the land through the creation of compact new communities.
- Well-designed and high quality homes, regardless of tenure and size, all meeting Nationally Described Space standards and the Future Homes and Buildings Standards.
- Flexible buildings that can evolve with residents over time, enabling people to work from home.
- Beautiful and characterful homes that embrace the history of Tewkesbury and the surrounding area.
- The use of local materials. For example, Cotswold stone to the east and red brick and timber to the west.
- All homes to front on to public open space and green, people friendly streets.
- Every home to have access to private or communal open space.
- Homes for later living to be at the heart of each community.
- Opportunities for community-led or self-build developments.

# Principles



## Promoting community ownership and longer-term stewardship.

**The garden communities will enable residents to connect. By allowing people to come together and build ties, a sense of community can be created.**

They will be inclusive and provide chances for residents to take ownership of community assets. This will be managed with long-term support from developers and Tewkesbury Borough Council.

New development will support existing social infrastructure. Development proposals will ensure sustainable models of future maintenance are established ensuring a continued obligation for meeting the future needs of garden communities residents.

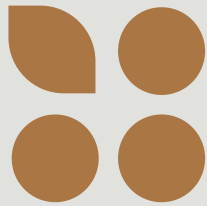
### We must see:

- Provision of new community assets, supported by existing parties for example; clubs, organisations and the parish and borough councils.
- A clear model for stewardship and ownership of community assets. This includes open space, supported through long-term investment.
- High quality and sustainable maintenance solutions for the long-term. For example, ensuring new trees thrive and grow.
- A community ownership and development programme, intended to allow for changing governance plans as the community grows.
- Potential for better delivery of borough and parish services across new and existing communities.



# Stakeholder endorsement of our charter

(This is what stakeholders will be asked to sign when the charter is finalised.)



By supporting this charter, we are setting out our expectations for the delivery of the garden communities, ensuring they are the priority and the principles of the garden communities are met.

**Name:**

**Organisation:**

**Date:**

I/We fully endorse the principles set out in the charter and commit to working in partnership with all stakeholders to deliver the vision for Tewkesbury garden communities.

