

STRATEGY FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

2011 - 2014

This strategy for citizen involvement in the Regional Municipality of Bornholm was adopted by the Municipal Council 26th May 2011.

The strategy has been elaborated within the framework of the policy for citizen involvement, which the Council adopted at its meeting 18th January 2011.

The main elements in the policy for citizens involvement are described in more detail on

pages 2-3. Included are references to the overall objectives, basic principles and a description of the organisation.

The strategy has been prepared by a working group consisting of representatives from:

- Association of Citizens Organisations on Bornholm
- Local Action Group, Bornholm Plus units of the Regional Municipality of Bornholm (BRK)
- Technical & Environment
- Culture & Leisure
- Economy & Analysis

• Regional Development). The Executive Director of BRK chaired the working group.

At a public meeting on 17th March 2011 the basic elements of the strategy were presented, and a public hearing was launched on 24th March 2011 with the opportunity to deliver comments until 8th April 2011.

Vision of the Council of Bornholm 2010-13

A good and active life for all

Bornholm: an island with opportunities for everybody for a good, healthy, active life. There is real citizen and public service end-user involvement in the development of a good, healthy, active life on the island.

Bornholm: a knowledge based society

Bornholm: an island with lifelong learning for everybody. The island is a laboratory for innovation and has a strong educational environment forming the basis for the development of the society and a growth business sector.

Green sustainable island

Bornholm: a green island based on alternative energy. We export alternative energy and know-how. "Green" awareness is everywhere in the society, in political and business life, as well as in the life of the individual citizen.

Economically sustainable island

Bornholm: an island with an increasing population and a business sector with continuous growth. We have a healthy economy in the regional municipality with growing in personal incomes.



THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE

Through dialogue and early involvement it is the objective to improve citizen involvement in the decision processes of Regional Municipality of Bornholm. It will be done in a close cooperation between the citizen, politicians and civil servants, in order to inspire and engage the citizens in the development of a good, healthy, active life on Bornholm.

THE IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES

The immediate objectives for the period 2011-2014:

1. Establishment of a framework and structure for an improved dialogue based citizen involvement, to ensure a political and administrative anchoring.
2. Dialogue with the citizen concerning challenges and development perspectives, through four annual district dialogue meetings and a joint dialogue meeting for the whole island.
3. Offer the districts support to elaborate local development plans, in order to release the potential of the citizen as an actor in local development.
4. Testing of different methods of dialogue based citizen involvement, followed up by an exchange of experience, and development of alternative "tools" for citizen involvement to assist BRK administration and politicians, as well as the citizen organisations etc.

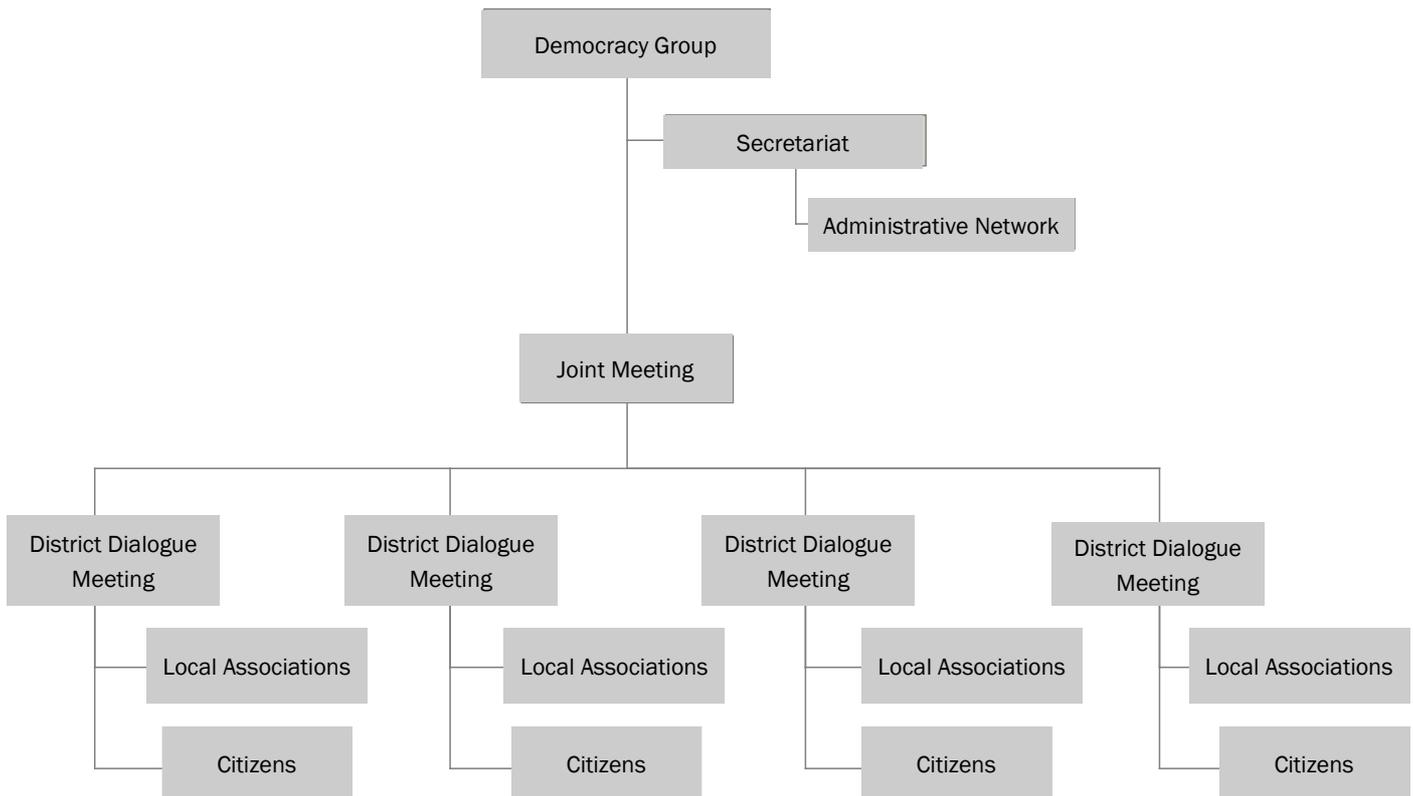
Basic principles for citizens involvement, (adopted by the Council 18th January 2011)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Citizens involvement is a natural part of the political decision making process, and thus a natural part of the work of BRK administration. 2. The methods and scope for citizen involvement will be adjusted to specific cases, target groups and relevant context. 3. The involvement of citizens must be at the earliest possible time and at an appropriate time in the political decision making process. 4. The division of roles and responsibilities must be clear in each specific citizen involvement process, | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The Council takes, due to its democratic mandate, the final decision in all political decision making processes. It means that the Council bears the final responsibility for political decisions taken on cases and projects, where the citizen has been involved. 6. The citizen will be involved in political decision making processes, which concern the citizen as a user of municipal services or as co-developer of the community. |
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ORGANISATION

To ensure the political anchoring of the citizens involvement in the Regional Municipality of Bornholm a Democracy Group will be established, assisted by a secretariat and an administrative network.

The implementation of the this three-years strategy for citizens involvement will be made in close cooperation with representatives for the local citizens organisations, Democracy Group and the administrative network.



Organising the implementation. (adopted by the Council 18th January 2011)

- A Democracy Group will be established, consisting of the chairpersons of the Municipal Council's political committees and the chairpersons of those parties not holding committee chairs.
- The task will be to ensure the development of citizen involvement in the Regional Municipality of Bornholm, thus a close contact to the districts through annual dialogue meetings.
- Every year the Democracy Group delivers a report on its work and results to the Council. The report is launched on the municipality's homepage and forms the basis for an evaluation of the implementation by the Council.
- The Democracy Group is assisted by a secretariat, which together with local actors, plans and facilitates the dialogue meetings.
- Guidelines for local development plans are decided by the Democracy Group, ensuring an open process and democratic legitimacy. The secretariat assists the local actors in the elaboration of the local development plans.
- The secretariat facilitates a network of employees across BRK administrative units, with the objective of ensuring structured sharing of know-how and the development of both a methodological and pragmatic citizen involvement.

1. FRAMEWORK AND STRUCTURE

The further development of citizen involvement on Bornholm particularly focuses on dialogue and the involvement of the citizen as a co-developer of their local area - and Bornholm in general.

For this purpose the framework and structure will be established for a three-year period. The Council will in the second quarter 2013 hold a comprehensive evaluation in order to decide on permanent citizen involvement.

The policy framework for the implementation of the strategy is the Council's policy and strategy for citizen involvement, the establishment of the Democracy Group including representatives from all political parties in the Council.

The administrative framework includes a secretariat and an administrative network of civil servants from the different administrative units of the Regional Municipality of Bornholm.

The financial framework is based on the Regional Municipality's own resources plus external sources of financing as far as is possible.

The framework and structure will be established during June-August 2011, with the budget and sources of financing.

The secretariat will be established by transferring the existing rural couch function from the Local Action Group on Bornholm to the Regional Municipality of Bornholm.

Furthermore maximising synergy in relation to existing activities and projects will be assured with the aim of improving citizen involvement in local development. This particularly relates to district development projects for example project "Land of Opportunities" ("Mulighedernes Land").

An evaluation group will be established that includes representatives from local citizen organisations, the Local Action Group on Bornholm and the Regional Municipality of Bornholm to ensure a broad evaluation of the annual reports.



ACTIVITIES

- 1) Clarification of the budget and sources of financing for the implementation of the three year strategy, including external financing opportunities and coordinating the implementation of existing projects under the Local Action Group on Bornholm.
- 2) Establishment of a secretariat, which formally and physically will be part of a staff unit of the Regional Municipality of Bornholm, thus directly to the management of BRK and the Council.
- 3) Preparation and realisation of meetings in the Democracy Group including adoption of procedural rules, meeting plan, planning of dialogue meetings with guideline themes etc.
- 4) Establishment of the administrative network
- 5) Annual reports to the Council, forming the basis for an annual evaluation in cooperation with the main stakeholders.

2. DIALOGUE MEETINGS

Four annual district dialogue meetings plus a joint dialogue meeting for all the island are the foundation elements in the strategy.

The aim of the meetings is to form the platform for dialogue and a common understanding of the framework conditions, the challenges and the changes Bornholm faces.

Thus the focus is on the challenges and development perspectives at local level as well as for Bornholm. The dialogue aims at shedding light on approaches, proposals for solutions and innovation based on local interests.

The citizen has the possibility to send proposals for agenda items for the dialogue meetings, addressed to the Democracy Group.

Minutes of the dialogue meetings will be taken by the secretariat and published on the municipal website, and through libraries and public service centres.

The existing school and elderly care districts provide the general geographical framework used for the local dialogue meetings, to be announced publicly and made open to all citizens. The division into four districts can be changed if specific themes and issues should require it.

Different types of dialogue based meetings will be used during the four rounds of dialogue meetings to be planned during the implementation of the three year strategy.

Dialogue meetings in themselves do not guarantee improved citizen involvement. Therefore a service check will be made on the communication between the municipal administrative units and the citizen, especially in relation to local organisations.

The aim is to reduce barriers to communication. The appointment of contact persons for the local organisations will be investigated, plus the benefits of local citizen organisations sending their agendas and/or minutes to relevant municipal administrative units.



ACTIVITIES

- 1) Planning of local dialogue meetings, clarification of meeting form, call for agenda items, decision about eventual guideline themes. The four local dialogue meetings will be organised in close succession, the first round of dialogue meetings will be organised during autumn 2011. Dates/times for all dialogue meetings will be published at least 3 months in advance.
- 2) Planning of the joint dialogue meeting for the whole island, including summing up of inputs from the local dialogue meetings and issues of more general relevance.
- 3) Service check on the communication between the regional municipality and the citizen.
- 4) Evaluation of the first round of dialogue meetings and planning of next round in 2012.
- 5) Implementation of dialogue meetings in 2012, 2013 and plus spring 2014.

3. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

The citizen as co-developer of the local community and thus contributor to the development of Bornholm is a core element of citizen involvement. Experiences with local area development projects and other local projects underline this.

Connected to the improved dialogue the opportunity should be created for citizens in the districts - also local areas in cooperation - to elaborate a local development plan.

A local development plan expresses the desires of local citizens for their communities plus how they wish to develop the districts, eventually in cooperation with adjacent local communities. A bottom-up based approach.

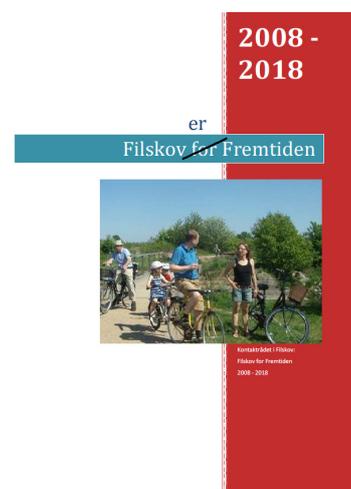
It is important that the local development plans are co-ordinated with the official municipal plans such as the regional development plan, the regional environment strategy etc.

The Democracy Group will set up criteria and guidelines to ensure open processes and legitimacy of the local development plans.

Based on examples of local development plans from other parts of Denmark and in light of a Bornholm context (plan hierarchy etc.) a definition of a local development plan will be made, as well as guidelines on how to elaborate them and what it should contain. The secretariat will initiate and coordinate this work in close cooperation with the administrative planning units.

The possibility to earmark financial resources from the regional municipality to implement local initiatives and projects will be clarified and discussed in the Council. Support for fundraising will be offered to local communities including a list of potential external funds/programmes.

Citizen organisations and other local actors will be offered training in how to elaborate local development plans, and the secretariat will assist with advice, provide useful contacts to relevant municipal administrative units and provide suggestions for external financing opportunities for concrete local initiatives.



ACTIVITIES

- 1) Definition of local development plans in a Bornholm context.
- 2) Collecting information on existing municipal assistance for local development, directly and through local citizens organisations, plus other financing opportunities through the regional municipality and external financing sources (EU, state, private donors etc.)
- 3) Organisation of training seminars on local development plans.
- 4) Elaboration and implementation of local development plans based on the bottom-up approach, and assisted by the secretariat (advisor and mentor)

4. CATALOGUE OF TYPES OF CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Workshops, stakeholder meetings, focus group interviews and digital citizens panels are just a few examples on different ways of involving the citizens.

A catalogue of these different forms and methods to involve citizens plus guidelines will be made and be publicly accessible from websites and in printed form.

The catalogue will refer to concrete experiences with the different forms of citizen involvement, and contact persons having experiences - in order to improve the internal exchange of experiences.

The catalogue will be a dynamic tool, regularly updated.

A work group will be established with the aim of regularly updating and promoting the catalogue.

Citizens panels

The Council want to ensure that citizen involvement will also address non-organised citizens. This is the reason for setting up a citizens representation panel of more than 1.000 representative/selected citizens on Bornholm.

This panel will contribute to ensuring a factual decision basis for issues demanding broad citizen involvement or where there is a need for a solid basis for later dialogue based citizen involvement.



ACITIVITIES

- 1) Establishment of a work group to update the catalogue
- 2) Finalisation of the catalogue including consultation with external partners
- 3) Presentation of the catalogue to local citizens organisation, politicians and administration
- 4) Regular updating of the catalogue and website, by the secretariat and the administrative network.

5. ECONOMY AND FINANCING

DRAFT BUDGET 1 January 2012 - 31 December 2014

DKK	2012	2013	2014	Total
Staff	550.000	570.000	590.000	1.710.000
Office equipment & accounting	50.000	30.000	30.000	110.000
Meetings and seminars	80.000	80.000	80.000	240.000
Transport	30.000	30.000	30.000	90.000
PR and communication	50.000	50.000	50.000	150.000
Total	760.000	760.000	780.000	2.300.000

FINANCING

The strategy for citizen involvement in 2012-2014 will be implemented as a project under the Local Action Group on Bornholm, under the measure "Citizen involvement and local development", with a subsidy rate of 50 % from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

The application will be prepared during second half of 2011 in close cooperation with the Local Action Group and the Association of Local Citizen Organisations on Bornholm, being the coordinator of the mentioned measure.

The costs of implementing the strategy in the second half 2011 will be financed by existing budget resources in the Regional Municipality of Bornholm and the Rural Coach project under the Local Action Group on Bornholm.



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