



**Canal &
River Trust**

Keeping Our Canals Open & Alive

**Sharing the first step
in the development of
our next ten-year strategy**



Our full ten-year strategy (2035) will be shared in late 2025

Our Changing World

To be a successful charity, achieving our purpose and vision, we must respond and adapt to the ever-changing world.

Our next ten-year strategy will be our guiding path to securing the long-term future for the network and the Trust as a thriving charity.



Our Purpose

Why we exist – As a charity we need to achieve a sustainable future for our canal network, keeping it open and alive, making it resilient and safe; and maximising its value for people, nature and the economy.



OUR PURPOSE

Why we exist

Keeping Our Canals
Open & Alive



Our Vision

Where we want to be – Our Vision sets out our aspirations for the future, a picture of what we want our canal network to become and the sort of charity we want to be so that we can all understand what we are working towards.

OUR VISION
Where we want to be

Our canals are living waterways that transform places and enrich lives

Our Impact

The difference we can make to society – We contribute £6.1 billion per year to society and the economy, including saving the NHS £1.1 billion a year and providing vital flood protection for homes, businesses and other infrastructure.

We believe that our network can deliver so much more and be part of the solution to key issues faced by the UK today and in the future.

OUR IMPACT
The difference we can make to society



Resilience & Security

Critical & interconnected part of the nation's infrastructure



Nature & Biodiversity

Providing vital habitats & corridors for nature to thrive



Health & Wellbeing

Connecting people with blue spaces, routes & nature



Place & Prosperity

Supporting sustainable growth, boating, development & living

Our Core Focus

The heart of what we do – To keep our canals alive, the Trust must deliver effective and efficient stewardship of our infrastructure, water, environment and heritage, and provide good service to our customers and users, on and by the water.

We want to be recognised as a responsible and respected owner of nationally important infrastructure, keeping it safe and open, and as a charity with a strong commitment to service, attracting more satisfied users and engaged communities, on and by the water.

OUR CORE FOCUS
The heart of what we do



Stewardship of our network

Maintaining & managing our infrastructure, water, environment & heritage to be resilient in the long-term



Service for our customers

Giving our customers & users a great experience, on & by the water & building community connections

Our Enablers

How we will do things differently – To successfully deliver our stewardship and service, and to maximise our impact, we have identified four areas where change is most critical.

Overarching all of this we need to operate and use our resources more efficiently and sustainably, reducing our carbon output towards net zero.

OUR ENABLERS
How we will do things differently



Our Culture & People

We will be a diverse & inclusive, bold, forward looking & innovative charity



Influence

We will be a credible & effective influencer & become the sector leader



Income

We will secure sufficient income from diverse sources, be a 'partner of choice', delivering societal impact



Processes, Technology & Systems

We will have processes & systems that improve our capability & agility & drive productivity & efficiencies

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Resilience
& Security



Nature &
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Health &
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Stewardship
of our network



Service
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Our Culture
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Influence



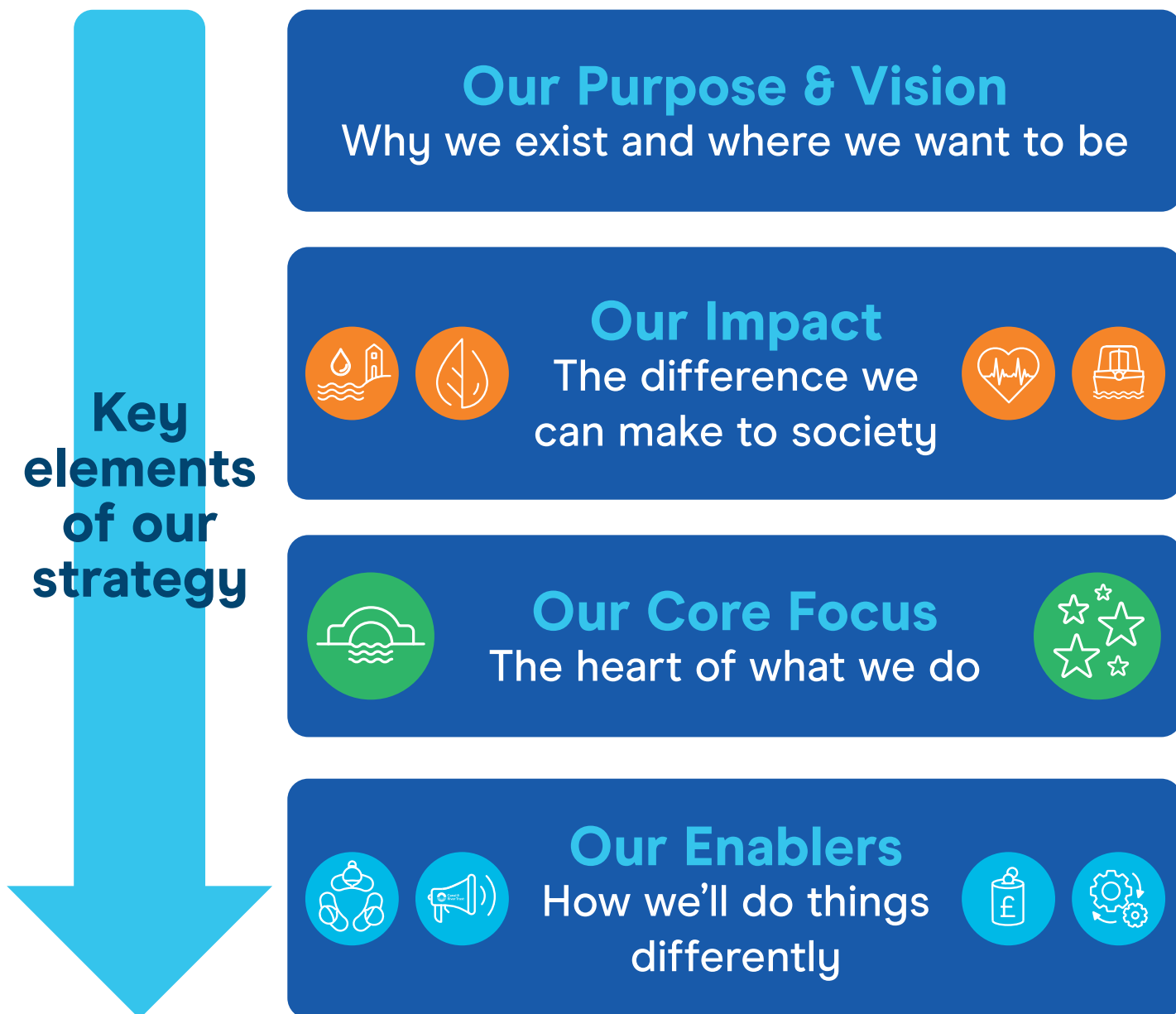
Income



Processes,
Technology
& Systems

Our Next Steps

This is the first step in the development of our next ten-year strategy, which will frame our next three-year business plan and beyond.



We are now working on defining our ambitions and targets and will communicate these with you in the coming months.



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