

Report to	On
Cabinet	Wednesday, 24 March 2021

Title	Portfolio Holder	Report of
Community Hub Action Plans 2021/22	Cabinet Member (Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building)	Director of Communities

Is this report a <b>KEY DECISION</b> (i.e. more than £100,000 or impacting on more than 2 Borough wards?)	Yes
Is this report on the <b>Statutory Cabinet Forward Plan</b> ?	Yes
Is this report confidential?	No

### Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet to note the 2021/22 Community Hub Action Plans and Area Profiles.

### Recommendations

2. That Cabinet notes the 2021/22 Community Hub Action Plans and Area Profiles.

### Reasons for recommendations

3. This report is the first annual presentation of Community Hub Action Plans and Area Profiles. Projects contained in the plans have been discussed and decided upon with members from each of the hubs at planning meetings.

### Other options considered and rejected

4. Action plans have been drawn up with contributions from of all members, following a cross party review of community involvement. Best practice in community development was considered as part of this review, with robust action plans agreed as an effective delivery mechanism for community priorities.

### Corporate outcomes

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

An exemplary council		Thriving communities	✓
A fair local economy that works for everyone		Good homes, green spaces, healthy places	✓

## **Background to the report**

6. The Council has five Community Hubs across the Borough, each with its own action plan, containing projects to deliver local priorities. Plans contain a variety of projects - high and low cost, long and short-term delivery, and a mix of capital works and community-based schemes.
7. A range of projects continue to be delivered on an ongoing basis in all of the Community Hub areas. The plans remain 'live' and are updated as projects are completed. Given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions, the attached plans have been sense checked to ensure progress can be made and outcomes achieved in a safe and compliant way.
8. The Area Profiles have been developed for each of the five community hubs, using statistical data supplied by the Policy & Partnerships Team, local knowledge of communities, and feedback from elected members.
9. These Area Profiles are designed to be a 'living' document which will be updated when new information is received. It is intended to provide insight into each area which build upon the local knowledge Members possess. The profiles explore some of the existing community assets in these areas and seeks to outline 'Areas of Opportunity' for development.
10. Area Profiles have been used to assist with the development of the Action Plans and will be regularly updated to ensure that any trends in each area can be identified and local need addressed.

## **Proposals**

11. Cabinet has committed to a period of twelve months, during which time each Neighbourhood Forum is being asked to consult on, design and develop its own model of community engagement, develop action plans, and to track its success.
12. Action plans have been created in consultation with members at planning meetings, based upon their understanding of priorities in their wards. Area profiles have been drawn up to 'tell the story' of each hub area, based on statistical data and local knowledge, to help members determine local need.
13. The Area Profiles have identified local needs and areas of opportunities for development. It is intended that the Community Hub chairs will ensure that these profiles are reviewed to ensure that areas of opportunities identified are not missed.
14. Each of the projects contained in the action plans is subject to a scoring matrix which challenges its viability and is underpinned by a project summary which sets out background, objectives, milestones and resources. Project summaries will be regularly updated and shared with lead members to enable efficient and effective updates to be given at planning meetings.
15. Community Hubs Chairs and Vice Chairs meetings provide the opportunity for inter-area discussion and comparison, as well as identifying good practice and sharing lessons

learned. Two task groups have already been identified for 2021/22, to look at joined up working on social isolation and school readiness.

16. In the cross-party review of community involvement in 2019, the subsequent recommendations agreed by cabinet, centred around seven key areas:
  - Level of community interaction and engagement
  - Level of community development and volunteering
  - Promotion of co-operative values (self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity)
  - Engagement with young people
  - Strengthening the voluntary, community and faith sector.
  - Delivery of community priorities through forum projects
  - Engagement with parish and town councils (where applicable)
17. The seven key areas above will be used in the pilot evaluation process, so that success against these key criteria can be measured.
18. Each Community Hub has an annual allocation of core revenue funds, calculated proportionately on the number of members. The collective total of £25,000 is included within the Council's overall budget.

Area	Members	Annual Budget	Reserves carried forward
Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall & Walton le Dale	11	£5,500	£27,600
Eastern Parishes	4	£2,000	£9114
Leyland & Farington	18	£9,000	£18,052
Penwortham	10	£5,000	£7129
Western Parishes	7	£3,500	£4933
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>£25,000</b>	<b>£66,828</b>

19. In addition to the above resource, £25,000 has been allocated in the Council's budget for hubs to be able to bid into, to provide match funding for larger or partnership schemes.

## Risk

20. Each of the projects contained in the action plans has an element of risk; through the scoping process and discussions with hub chairs and project lead Members, an assessment is carried out as to the level of risk and potential mitigation.
21. Each project is scored against a matrix of measures which assess viability, value for money, scale of impact and the degree of community involvement in delivery.
22. For projects with higher risk, e.g. capital schemes such as play areas, a full risk assessment is carried out, with partners if appropriate.

## Equality and diversity

23. Projects contained within the action plans are designed to be inclusive, accessible and bring communities together.
24. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out for each of the plans; there are no potential negative impacts on any of the protected groups. There are specific positive impacts on age and disability, through projects such as reducing social isolation and sustaining our Dementia Friendly Borough status.

### **Air quality implications**

25. The lack of plans to address the significant climate change issue, in some of the identified action plans is disappointing but it is hoped that as the council's action plan is developed further the community hubs will be able to review their action plans and development options to minimise carbon emissions in their areas.
26. A number of the action plans contain measures to improve footpaths and encourage active exercise within the wider environment and this welcomed. These measures can be promoted further to encourage a wider use of the trails/footpaths as part of everyday commuting and thus help to achieve some of the Council's air quality action goals.

### **Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

27. The £25k commitments outlined in this report will be met from the £25k My Neighbourhoods budget. There is an additional £25k also included in the budget for hubs to bid into.

### **Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

28. There are no concerns from a Monitoring Officer perspective. The approach adopted is in accordance with the Constitution.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A – Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall & Walton le Dale Community Hub Action Plan 2021/22 and Area Profile

Appendix B – Eastern Parishes Community Hub Action Plan 2021/22 and Area Profile

Appendix C – Leyland & Farington Community Hub Action Plan 2021/22 and Area Profile

Appendix D – Penwortham Community Hub Action Plan 2021/22 and Area Profile

Appendix E – Western Parishes Community Hub Action Plan 2021/22 and Area Profile

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