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| **Report to** | **On** |  |
| **Cabinet** | **Thursday, 16 June 2021** |
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| **Title** | **Portfolio Holder** | **Report of** |
| Community Hubs Update | **Cabinet Member (Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building)** | **Director of Communities** |

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| Is this report confidential? | No  |

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide Cabinet with an overview of activity in Community Hubs.

**Recommendations**

1. Cabinet is asked to note progress made by Community Hubs to date.
2. Cabinet is asked to support the development of the Community Hubs over coming months, as COVID restrictions are hopefully eased and public engagement is reinstated.

**Reasons for recommendations**

1. Following on from the Cabinet approval of Community Hub Action Plans in March, this report was requested, to provide a progress update on project delivery.

**Other options considered and rejected**

1. This paper provides an initial update report for the Council’s Community Hubs in 2021/22. It complements the quarterly corporate performance report, but relates more specifically to progress around recommendations from the cross-party review of community involvement.

**Corporate outcomes**

1. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

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

**Background to the report**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Cabinet has committed to a period of twelve months, during which time each Community Hub is being asked to consult on, design and develop its own model of community engagement, develop action plans, and to track its success.

**Support for Community Hubs**

1. Community Hubs are supported by a team of Community Development Officers, each with a geographical focus, as well as a thematic lead role:

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| Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall & Walton le Dale | Sam Jones | Volunteering & social capital (inc. co-ordination of community group & foodbank networks) |
| Eastern Parishes | Louise Davies | Social isolation & dementia (inc. co-ordination of Dementia Action Alliance & Dementia Friendly Borough)  |
| Leyland & Farington | David Williams | Health Inequalities (inc. wider determinants & early action) |
| Penwortham | Jack Barnes | Employability & inclusion (inc. financial, digital, community wealth building) |
| Western Parishes | Tony Stirland | Green agenda (inc. air quality & sustainability) |

1. In addition, Hanna Latif is the Community Development Officer for Youth Engagement and Mental Health.
2. Each hub has a monthly planning meeting, supported by the relevant Community Development Officer and Communities Manager, where discussions are held on:
* Progress of project delivery
* Barriers to or issues with projects
* Updates to area profiles
* Funding proposals (including Boost Fund)
1. Dates for planning meetings have been scheduled in the Member Diary for the 2021/22 municipal year, with a forward plan for agenda items.
2. To reinforce efficiency of planning meetings, standard templates have been developed for agendas, action plan updates and meeting notes / actions.
3. Detailed project summaries have been published for all projects contained in hub action plans. Lead members are actively encouraged to engage with Community Development Officers to ensure they are up to date.

**Evaluation of Community Hubs**

1. Recommendations from the cross-party review of community involvement, subsequently agreed by cabinet, centred around seven key areas:

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| 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) |

1. As explained in a letter to Community Hub Chairs from the Cabinet Member for Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building on 25 March (copied to all members), these key areas will form the criteria for the pilot evaluation process of community hubs.
2. Appendices A to E show an analysis of progress in project delivery to date against these criteria.

**Task group approach**

1. Hub Chairs and Vice Chairs have given collective approval to two pilot task groups, with volunteer member representatives.
2. The Social Isolation Task Group has been created to build on the excellent work already carried out to support those living with dementia and their carers; to take the learning from the South Ribble Together COVID response hub, and to develop a wider programme of support for isolation and loneliness.
3. Membership of the Social Isolation Task Group includes:

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| --- | --- |
| Cllr Christine Melia | Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall & Walton le Dale Community Hub |
| Cllr Caleb Tomlinson |
| Cllr Matthew Trafford |
| Cllr Gareth Watson | Eastern Parishes Community Hub |
| Cllr Sue Jones | Leyland & Farington Community Hub |
| Cllr Karen Walton  |
| Cllr Stephen Thurlbourn |
| Cllr James Flannery | Penwortham Community Hub  |
| Cllr Will Adams |
| Cllr Carol Wooldridge |
| Cllr Colin Coulton | Western Parishes Community Hub  |

1. The School Readiness Task Group has been created following a request from Headteachers to provide support for primary children who may have been adversely impacted by nursery and school closures as a result of COVID. The group is looking at some of the potential issues facing those children and their families, and some support and resource that the Council may be able to offer.
2. Membership of the School Readiness Task Group includes:

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| --- | --- |
| Cllr Matthew Trafford | Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall & Walton le Dale Community Hub |
| Cllr Karen Walton & Cllr Jacky Alty | Leyland & Farington Community Hub |
| Cllr Ian Watkinson & Cllr Carol Wooldridge | Penwortham Community Hub  |

1. Both task groups provide feedback to Hub Chairs and Vice Chairs meetings on a monthly basis. More formal reports with action plans and funding proposals will be drawn up in due course.

**Communications and public engagement**

1. There is a recognised need for a robust and comprehensive approach to communications and promotion for community hubs; to utilise a range of methods of engagement to relay key messages
2. Inaugural e-newsletters have been published for each of the hubs, accessible by the following links:

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| Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall & Walton le Dale Newsletter Spring 21 <https://tinyurl.com/vsddcbe5> |
| Eastern Parishes Newsletter Spring 21 <https://tinyurl.com/mhczkycj> |
| Leyland & Farington Newsletter Spring 21 <https://tinyurl.com/2xx3ees2> |
| Penwortham Newsletter spring 21 <https://tinyurl.com/wyh5mf3y> |
| Western Parishes Newsletter spring 21 <https://tinyurl.com/2nktu7ey> |

1. Facebook pages have been rebranded and refreshed, with timely and relevant news items being shared. Pages are accessible via the links below.

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| Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall & Walton le Dale [www.facebook.com/bamberbridgelostockhallwaltonledale](http://www.facebook.com/bamberbridgelostockhallwaltonledale) |
| Eastern Parishes [www.facebook.com/easternparisheshub](http://www.facebook.com/easternparisheshub) |
| Leyland & Farington [www.facebook.com/leylandandfaringtoncommunityhub](http://www.facebook.com/leylandandfaringtoncommunityhub) |
| Penwortham [www.facebook.com/penworthamcommunityhub](http://www.facebook.com/penworthamcommunityhub) |
| Western Parishes [www.facebook.com/westernparisheshub](http://www.facebook.com/westernparisheshub) |

1. It is hoped that as COVID restrictions are lifted, hubs can begin to make plans for public meetings. In the meantime, a series of pop up ‘community conversations’ are being scheduled, using gazebos and lightweight furniture in COVID safe outdoor settings. Members from all hubs have expressed an interest in participating; more details will be circulated when locations and dates are confirmed.

**Budget**

1. The 2020/2021 budget and expenditure as well as the carry forward and budget for 2021/22 are outlined below:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cost Centre Description** | **Brought Forward Balance 2020/21£** | **2020/21 Allocation£** | **2020/21 Expenditure£** | **Final Balance 2020/21£** | **21/22 Allocation£** | **Total Available 21/22£** |
| Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall & Walton-le-Dale | 27,598 | 5,500 | 0 | 33,098 | 5,500 | 38,598 |
| Eastern Parishes | 9,114 | 2,000 | 1,330 | 9,784 | 2,000 | 11,784 |
| Leyland & Farington | 18,052 | 9,000 | 1,901 | 25,151 | 9,000 | 34,151 |
| Penwortham | 7,129 | 5,000 | 400 | 11,729 | 5,000 | 16,729 |
| Western Parishes | 4,933 | 3,500 | 3,778 | 4,655 | 3,500 | 8,155 |
| Boost Fund | 0 | 25,000 |   | 25,000 | 25,000 | 50,000 |
| **TOTAL** | **66,826** | **50,000** | **7,408** | **109,418** | **50,000** | **159,418** |

1. The total allocation for 2021/22 is £159k across all areas including £50k for the Boost Fund grants.
2. Round One Boost Fund Allocations (announced at May Council) are as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hub** | **Project** | **Allocation** | **Match funding required from hub** | **Additional / external funding secured**  |
| Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall & Walton-le-Dale | Bamber Bridge Foodbank Premises | £7250 | £7250 |  |
| Eastern Parishes | Gregson Lane Changing Rooms | £6307 | £6307 | TBC – estates budget |
| Leyland & Farington | Eagle & Child Bowling Club entrance | £2500 | £2500 |  |
| Farington Lodges | £3325 | £3325 | £11,150 Farington Fund |
| Penwortham | Conservation area signage | £1020 | £1020 |  |
| Mental health awareness | £900 | £900 |  |
| **Total** | £21,302 | £21,302 |  |

**Risk**

1. 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, consideration is given to the level of risk and potential mitigation.
2. 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. For projects with higher risk, e.g. capital schemes such as play areas, a full risk assessment is carried out, with partners if appropriate. Going forward, this will be recorded in the Grace risk management system.

**Equality and diversity**

1. Projects approved for inclusion in Community Hub action plans are designed to be inclusive, accessible and bring communities together.
2. 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**

1. 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.
2. 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 Councils air quality action goals.

**Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer**

1. The £25k commitments outlined in this report will be met from the £25k My Neighbourhoods budget as outlined in the report.

**Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

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

**Background documents**

Letter to Community Hub Chairs from Cabinet Member for Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building 25/3/21

**Appendices**

Appendix A – Update from Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall & Walton le Dale Community Hub

Appendix B – Update from Eastern Parishes Community Hub

Appendix C – Update from Leyland & Farington Community Hub

Appendix D – Update from Penwortham Community Hub

Appendix E – Update from Western Parishes Community Hub

Jennifer Mullin

Director of Communities

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