

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building))	Cabinet	Monday, 20 June 2022

### Community Hub Action Plans 2022-23

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Yes
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Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	<b>Significant impact on 2 or more council wards</b>
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#### Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet to note the 2022/23 Community Hub Action Plans.

#### Recommendations to Cabinet

2. That Cabinet notes the 2022/23 Community Hub Action Plans.

#### Reasons for recommendations

3. Projects contained in the action plans have been discussed and decided upon with members from each of the hubs at planning meetings.

#### Other options considered and rejected

4. The Community Hub model continued to be reviewed and evaluated throughout 2021, which informed a report to Cabinet in December. This concluded that the existing model and the use of action plans continue to be an effective delivery mechanism for community priorities.

## Corporate priorities

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

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

## 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 the Community Hub areas. The plans remain 'live' and are updated as projects are completed.

## Key Themes

8. 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.
9. A range of projects continue to be delivered on an ongoing basis in all the Community Hub areas. The plans remain 'live' and are updated as projects are completed.
10. Action plans have been created in consultation with members at planning meetings, based upon their understanding of priorities in their wards.
11. 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.
12. 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. A social isolation task group has been established through this medium, creating actions to promote existing and create new social isolation provision.
13. 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)

14. The seven key areas above have been used to evaluate the Community Hub model, serving as an appendix to the report to Cabinet in December 2021.

15. Members from each Community Hub have the autonomy to decide how their Community Hub operates, ensuring that they work to a model that best meets the needs of their residents. In order to formalise this, an exercise has been carried out with each Community Hub to define their own Terms of Reference. More specifically, this focused on:

- Planning meetings – who attends, how decisions are made, frequency and locations of meetings.
- Action plans – process for project approval, project roles, budget allocation.
- Public engagement – when to engage, how to engage, frequency of engagement.

16. All Community Hubs agreed that only members would attend planning meetings and be involved in decision making, however, partners may be invited when relevant. Frequency and location of planning meetings vary, some occurring monthly, and others bi-monthly. Likewise, with public engagements, some Community Hubs engage within a set frequency, and others only do if there is a topic for discussion.

17. Feedback was requested from members on the Area Profiles used to inform Community Hub Action Plans in March 2021. A simplified dashboard format was requested for easier reading. New dashboards have been drafted and will be shared with Chairs and Vice Chairs on the 9th June 2022.

18. Each Community Hub currently holds budget reserves that they have carried over from previous years. It has been confirmed by Cabinet that all reserves must be spent in the 2022-23 financial year, and any unspent budgets will be returned to Council reserves.

Area	Members	2021-22 Spend	Annual Budget	Reserves carried forward from 2021-22	Committed	Total Budget (Remaining to spend)
Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall & Walton le Dale	11	£5,939	£5,500	£32,659	£13,830	£24,329
Eastern Parishes	4	£635	£2,000	£11,148	£7,107	£6,041
Leyland & Farington	18	£11,915	£9,000	£22,236	£9,961	£21,275
Penwortham	10	£5,619	£5,000	£11,110	£3,529	£12,581
Western Parishes	7	£868	£3,500	£7,287	£510	£10,277
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>£24,976</b>	<b>£25,000</b>	<b>£84,440</b>	<b>£34,937</b>	<b>£74,503</b>

19. In addition to the above resource, £25,000 is included within the Council's budget for the Boost Fund for hubs to bid into, to fund or part-fund larger projects. This fund opens for applications twice per year, once in October 22, then again in March 23.

20. The Boost Fund Plus is a £350,000 funding pot for community groups and not-for-profit organisations to bid into. The deadline for applications was Monday 9th May. Final decisions on success applications are made by the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities, Social Justice, and Wealth Building, however the Community Hubs have supported this process by shortlisting applications from their area.

Although these projects do not sit on the Community Hub Action Plans, they will be projects of interest, and regular updates will be provided to members.

21. The Leisure Local Community Fund is a £250,000 funding pot available for community groups, sports clubs, and not-for-profits to bid into for projects that improve health and wellbeing for South Ribble's residents. The deadline for applications is Sunday 22nd May, and final decisions on successful applications are made by the Leader of the Council, and the Deputy Leader/Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

Community Hubs have not supported this fund through shortlisting applications, however, successful projects within their areas are still of interest, therefore although they will not feature of Community Hub Action Plans, regular updates will be provided to members.

### **Climate change and air quality**

22. The recently appointed Climate Emergency Engagement Officer has attended a Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting, as well as a planning meeting for each of the Community Hubs. These meetings aimed to inform members of the projects and initiatives that they could deliver to contribute towards the Council's Climate Emergency agenda.
23. 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.
24. Action plans also feature projects that lead to additional planting and wildlife, including wildflower meadows, town/village centre planters, community gardens, and South Ribble in Bloom. All contributing to the improvement of air quality.
25. The Leyland and Farington Community Hub has established a task group, dedicated to identifying environmental projects that can be added to the action plan.

### **Equality and diversity**

26. Projects contained within the action plans are designed to be inclusive, accessible and bring communities together.
27. 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.

## **Risk**

28. 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.
29. 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.
30. For projects with higher risk, e.g. capital schemes such as play areas, a full risk assessment is carried out, with partners if appropriate.

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

31. In addition to the £350k investment in 2022/23 to create a community support fund, to work alongside the existing the Boost Fund and the community hubs (as noted at point 20 above), and the £250k Leisure Local Community Fund (noted in point 21), the Council holds a specific budget for the Community Hubs of £25,000, which is included within the Council's overall budget for 2022/23.
32. In addition, £84,440 of unspent funds from 2021/22 have been brought forward into the new financial year.

## **Comments of the Monitoring Officer**

33. There are no concerns from a legal perspective with the proposal. Projects contained in the action plans have been discussed and decided upon with members from each of the hubs at planning meetings.

## **Appendices**

34. Appendix A: Community Hub Action Plans 2022-23

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