

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities (Introduced by Cabinet Member (Communities, Social Justice and Wealth Building))	Cabinet	Wednesday 15 March 2023

Community Hub Action Plans 2023/24

Is this report confidential?	No
------------------------------	----

Is this decision key?	No
-----------------------	----

Purpose of the Report

1. To update Cabinet on Community Hubs and Community Hub Action Plans.

Recommendations

2. That Cabinet notes work undertaken by Community Hubs in 2022/23.
3. For Cabinet to note 2023/24 Community Hub Action Plans.

Reasons for recommendations

4. This report is the annual presentation of Community Hub Action Plans for Cabinet approval. 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

5. Action plans have been drawn up with contributions from of all members, in line with the 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 priorities

6. 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

7. 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 council-led works and community-based schemes.
8. 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. Each of the projects in the attached plans have been discussed at hub planning meetings to ensure transparency, and alignment with corporate priorities.

Proposals

9. Action plans have been created in consultation with members at planning meetings, based upon their understanding of priorities in their wards and knowledge of local needs
10. 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.
11. Community Hubs Chairs and Vice Chairs meetings will continue to provide the opportunity for inter-area discussion and comparison, as well as identifying good practice and sharing lessons learned.
12. 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.
13. In addition to core funds, the annual Boost Fund of £25,000 will continue to operate over two rounds (spring and autumn) each year. Hubs are invited to submit bids by 31 March and 31 October for growth or innovation projects.
14. Each Community Hub has built up reserves from underspend over previous years, however, it was agreed by Cabinet this year that any unspent budget (both annual budget and reserves) would be clawed back from the Community Hubs at the end of the financial year. This decision aims to encourage all hubs to spend their budget within the community. Going forward, Community Hubs will only have access to their annual allocation of core revenue funds, with the option to submit bids into the Boost Fund.
15. The below table provides a breakdown of each Community Hub budget, showing their annual allocation, reserves carried forward, expenditure to date in 2022/23, and the balance remaining.
16. Although there is a balance remaining in all the Community Hubs at the time of writing this report (February 2023), the majority of this balance is ring-fenced to projects and will be spent prior the end of the financial year.

17. The only Community Hub with un-ringfenced budget is the Leyland and Farington Community Hub. This is because their final planning meeting of the year takes place on 21 March, where final decisions will be made. All remaining budget will be spent before the end of the financial year.

Area	No of Members	Annual Budget	Reserves carried forward from 2021-22	Total Budget 2022-23	Total 2022-23 Expenditure (to date – Feb 23)	Balance Remaining	Balance Ring-fenced	Balance Not Ring-fenced
Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall & Walton le Dale	11	£5,500	£32,659	£38,159	£31,733.86	£6,425.14	£6,425.14	£0
Eastern Parishes	4	£2,000	£11,148	£13,148	£3,420	£9,728	£9,728	£0
Leyland & Farington	18	£9,000	£22,236	£31,236	£24,456.75	£6,779.25	£550	£6,229.25
Penwortham	10	£5,000	£11,110	£16,110	£12,378	£3,732	£3,732	£0
Western Parishes	7	£3,500	£7,287	£10,787	£1,630.89	£9,156.11	£9,156.11	£0
TOTAL	50	£25,000	£84,440	£109,440	£73,619.50	£35,820.50	£29,591.25	£6,229.25

Climate change and air quality

18. Projects contained in the action plans at Appendix A do not directly impact the Council's targets on climate change and sustainability, however there are several projects which contribute to the overall agenda:
- Cycling schemes such as Dr Bike. Pop-up Bike Shop and guided rides to encourage and promote sustainable travel
 - South Ribble in Bloom and Garden Angels, encouraging planting, local volunteering and re-use / recycling of material, equipment and water
 - Worden Park and Farington Lodges improvements to pondlife and biodiversity

Equality and diversity

19. Projects contained within the action plans are designed to be inclusive, accessible and bring communities together.
20. 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

21. 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.
22. 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.

23. 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

24. There are no direct financial implications of this report. All funding is within existing, approved budgets.
25. It should be noted that total expenditure reported is that reported by the hubs and is not currently all on the Council's financial system. Goods or services must be delivered before 31 March to meet accounting requirements of recording spend. As balances are generally carried forward in reserves there is discretion available but there will be an imbalance between hub and financial reporting.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

26. There are no legal implications arising directly from the report, but some projects may give rise to legal considerations e.g. compliance with the best value duty and with Contract Procedure Rules for any contracts awarded.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices

Appendix A – Community Hub Action Plans 2023/24

Appendix B – Community Hub Highlights Summary 2022/23

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
Reece Drew (Community Development Team Leader)	reece.drew@southribble.gov.uk	01772 625461	16/2/23