

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE
23 SEPTEMBER 2021

COMMUNITY PLAN – ACTIVITY FOCUS

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Council’s Community Plan covers April 2020 to March 2023. This report sets out the work that remains ongoing or outstanding within the Community Plan and therefore forms the focus of the Council’s work for the next 18 months.
- 1.2 It should be noted that there will continue to be a demand on the Council to support the Covid response and Covid recovery response. Requests for support from both health and other public sector colleagues continue and are unlikely to reduce in the immediate future. The activities the Council will need to undertake to support with these are not part of this report but will undoubtedly require Council resources throughout this period.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The Community Plan was agreed in 2019 and was last refreshed in October 2020. Progress against activities in the Community Plan has been monitored as part of performance reporting. In addition reports on specific activities and work undertaken as part of the Council’s response to the Coronavirus Pandemic have also been presented to Members.
- 2.2 This report looks at what remains within the Community Plan to inform the Council’s work programme which includes Community Plan actions and a wide range of activities the Council delivers and develops as part of its usual services.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 This section details the activities to be contained with the Community Plan work programme for the next 18-months. To focus the Council’s work and ensure that it delivers on the promises made with the Community Plan.
- 3.2 The activities are summarised as bullet point statements under each objective. The details of the operational actions required to deliver the activities sits within the Business Plans of the relevant services in the Council.
- 3.3 **Objective: Deliver inclusive and sustainable economic growth**
- Educate to work: grow and maintain relationships with schools, colleges, universities, enterprise agencies and independent training providers, employment agencies and businesses.
 - Business support and resiliency programmes: support at least 50 businesses per annum with information, advice and guidance, mentoring skills and financial help.
 - Key infrastructure: secure funding and commence construction of the Southern Link Road and progress the A1 overbridge.
 - Adopt the amended the Development Plan and associated policies.
 - Redevelop the current Cattle Market site to create the country’s first international Air and Space College.
 - Complete re-purposing of the Buttermarket.

- Redevelop the former Marks & Spencer on Stodman Street into a mixed use employment and residential offer.
- Implement the 'welcome back fund' with key partners to support resilience and growth of our high streets and shopping areas post Covid.
- Develop the Newark Heart Programme to support new activities and events within the Town to drive up footfall, dwell time and spend.
- Bring forward proposals to regenerate Ollerton Town Centre.
- Develop the Tourism Destination Development and Sherwood Forest Corner Masterplan.
- Develop and submit 'Levelling Up' proposals for Sherwood.
- Progress the Castle Gatehouse Scheme.

3.4 **Objective: Create more and better quality homes through our roles as landlord, developer and planning authority**

- Build 500 homes directly through the Council's development company, Arkwood Developments.
- Allocate future housing to meet the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community.
- Deliver a new winter night shelter provision which meets Public Health guidelines relating to COVID-19.
- Develop and deliver the first phase of the 'Starting Well' project.
- Develop a hostel for homeless people. This includes designing and constructing brand new replacement accommodation in Newark using the Seven Hills Site.
- Review the housing repairs service and implement any actions required to improve the customer experience.
- Deliver a handy person service.
- Build 335 homes from our Housing Revenue Account and deliver an additional 200 homes in Ollerton and Boughton via a developer.
- Develop the Ollerton and Boughton neighbourhood regeneration scheme.
- Review and implement the new 'Empty Homes Standard'.
- Commence the first phase of Yorke Drive Regeneration Scheme.
- Strengthen existing arrangements for engaging with residents and tenants.
- Play a full role in resettling Afghan families.

3.5 **Objective: Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents**

- Work collaboratively with partners to support the development and integration of housing, health and social care.
- Work with Southwell Leisure Centre Trust in the co-development of a business case for a fitness suite extension and an alternative management arrangement.
- Continue to support the YMCA to deliver the Community and Activity Village.
- Support the provision of a new play area in Bilsthorpe.
- Develop a targeted arrears support project to support residents at risk of financial crisis, with particular focus on those financially affected by COVID-19.
- Create and deliver a portfolio of innovative fuel poverty alleviation / affordable warmth initiatives targeted at private sector residents.
- Progress Southwell and Lowdham flood mitigation works.
- Complete improvements to Sherwood Forest Arts and Craft Centre.
- Support Newark Hockey Club with provision of a new pitch.
- Work with Newark FC to identify a replacement facility.
- Continue to provide effective response to all Covid related activities.

3.6 Objective: Continue to maintain the high standard of cleanliness and appearance of the local environment

- Continue to deliver the 'Not in Newark & Sherwood' anti fly-tipping campaign.
- Increase levels of resident satisfaction with their local area and street scene by proactively deploying the new Action Day Team to target key areas.
- Address repeated environmental neglect by carrying out proactive enforcement action and deliver a thank you note to those residents who make a positive impact.
- Deliver at least 3 school or community projects per annum aligned with the future Days of Action Programme.

3.7 Objective: Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and increase feelings of safety in our communities

- Ensure alignment and investment in new technology to improve imaging and support enforcement actions by assessing crime locations against CCTV sites.
- Improve the safety of the district's town centres by undertaking at least two Nights of Action per annum, in collaboration with key partners, to target the night time economy.
- Reduce the number of environmental crimes committed by increasing visibility and enforcement activity in targeted areas.
- Educate young people engaged in, or at risk of offending in, anti-social behaviour by delivering at least two diversionary activities per annum in key locations.
- Invest in additional target hardening works to deter unauthorised traveller encampments.
- Following the success of the Safer Street initiative, working with Police partners to deliver a three further areas of target hardening aimed at reducing residential and vehicle crime.

3.8 Objective: Enhance and protect the district's natural environment

- Contribute to the UK's Emergency Tree Plan by identifying sites and planting at least 10,000 trees by 2023.
- Reduce the Council's carbon emissions by implementing an environmental strategy and carbon reduction action plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035.
- Improve recycling levels by promoting positive behavioural changes.
- Connect residents and visitors with the nature, landscape and wildlife of Sherwood Forest by developing a masterplan for Forest Corner.
- Provide a number of residential charge points for electric vehicles.
- Roll out a programme of Photovoltaic (PV) Units on Council assets.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 This is a summary of a wide range of work within the next 18 months, within all of the activities and actions identified the appropriate equalities implications will be considered.

5.0 Digital Implications

5.1 This is a summary of a wide range of work within the next 18 months, within all of the activities and actions identified the appropriate digital implications will be considered.

6.0 Financial Implications (FIN21-22/5582)

6.1 Budgets are already set for activities identified above, where appropriate. Relevant Business Managers will submit separate reports if any budget changes are required. There are no financial implications for this report.

7.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

7.1 Aligns to the whole Community Plan.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the community activities which remain to be undertaken.

Reason for Recommendation

To ensure members are aware of the focus of activities which will be undertaken for the next 18 months.

Background Papers

Community Plan 2020-2023

For further information please contact Deborah Johnson on Ext. 5800

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