

## **Annual Review of Local Priorities**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- I. To report on progress made in addressing the Area Board priorities selected for 2021/22
- II. To consider any new evidence or information that will help inform the Area Board in selecting its priorities for 2022/23
- III. To highlight potential priorities for the Area Board to consider for 2022/23
- IV. To inform the Area Board of the broad mechanism for delivering these priorities including (where appropriate): leads, working groups and allocating funding.

### **2. Introduction**

This report has been written by the Community Engagement Manager in consultation with the Area Board Chair. It is provided to help celebrate the success so far and support the Area Board Councillors in setting their priorities for the coming year.

In early 2021, the Community Engagement Manager combined data from the Community Area “Joint Strategic Needs Assessment” (JSNA) with other sources of data and additional local intelligence. This was used to produce a Community Area status report that highlighted where further local improvements may be required. In May 2021, this report was shared with local Area Boards to help inform which priorities it should focus its energy and resources upon.

Given the challenging financial environment, both nationally and locally, Area Boards are encouraged to continue to develop this evidence led approach to its work, so that they can have the greatest impact on the lives of our communities. This includes:

- ✓ Selecting priorities and directing resources to where there is the greatest need and where the Area Board can make a tangible contribution;
- ✓ Being clear on what the Area Board is trying to achieve and the mechanism for doing so; and
- ✓ Regularly reviewing and communicating progress against the chosen priorities.

### **3. Progress on 2021/22 Area Board priorities**

The Area Board working with its partners and the wider community has focussed its attention over the past year on the priority areas below. Appendix A summarises the progress that has been made so far.

## Area board priority themes for Bradford on Avon:

- Youth engagement and positive activity opportunities
- Addressing Climate Change
- Reducing isolation and loneliness
- Supporting the local economy
- Improving transport and access

## 4. The context for agreeing new Area Board priorities.

The selection of Area Board priorities should be undertaken using both the evidence available to us, as well as the context within which we are operating. Both are continually changing, and the following is provided to help inform the Area Board's decision.

- i. The Joint Strategic Needs Analysis was collated 2 years ago in 2020 and although it used the latest information available at the time, some it is now out of date. This is partly due the significant impact COVID-19 has had on issues such as debt, the economy and mental health as well as the release of more up to date data that was not previously available.
- ii. Two news sources of data for Wiltshire that have analysed data during COVID and subsequent start of the recovery are available. These are:
  - [Annual report \(citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk\)](https://citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk)
  - [Recovery JSNA Wiltshire Intelligence](#)
- iii. Wiltshire Council has released its new [business plan](#), outlining its strategy for 2022-2032. It focusses upon the 4 themes of “Empowering People”, “a Resilient Society”, “a Thriving Economy” and “a Sustainable Environment”. In addition, Wiltshire Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022, approved both the [Wiltshire Climate Strategy](#) and [Wiltshire's Natural Environment Plan](#) and has committed to being Carbon neutral by 2030.
- iv. The Area Board should be aware of these plans and seek to help deliver them at a local level.

The 2021/22 Area Board priorities were selected whilst in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. The demands of this public health crisis demonstrated the importance of partnership working with some services struggling to cope and many of our community groups and organisations unable to operate. The focus of our time and resources has been upon coming together and supporting the vulnerable within our communities. As we now emerge from the pandemic, the focus is shifting away from

this reactive response and onto the rebuilding of our communities. In particular, the evidence suggests that ....

- Some organisations are finding it difficult to find volunteers with some not returning due to anxiety over COVID-19.
- The demand upon our health services including the number of COVID related cases continues to be high.
- Many people, especially the older and more vulnerable have lost confidence and are reluctant to socialise again.
- There has been an increase in poor mental health and depression resulting from the pandemic. Some young people have been particularly affected.
- Inflation is very high with fuel costs doubling or more in price. This is hitting the poorer families and the elderly / vulnerable the most.

The last 2 years has seen a change in the way that people communicate, especially with the shift to more permanent home and remote working. This has allowed a new approach that includes the ability to be more inclusive and a reduction in the need to travel. The Area Board is encouraged to embrace these opportunities but also mitigate against any local impact upon our communities especially as there are many who do not have access to transport or/and do not use digital forms of communication.

## **5. Agreeing and delivering priorities for 2022/23**

The Community Engagement Manager in consultation with the chairperson of the Area Board has provided a list of possible priorities for consideration. These can be found in Appendix B. The Area Board should carefully consider how many priorities it can work on at any one time and ensure that they are meaningful for their local area. As a guide, it is recommended that where an Area Board has 4 or less councillors, no more than 4 priorities are selected at any one time. Larger boards can select up to 5 if they believe that they have the capacity to deliver on them. Area Boards can at any time select, review or amend their priorities in order that they remain relevant and linked to current needs.

As well as being evidence led, priorities should be selected where the Area Board believes that it can realistically make a positive impact upon them. To aid the delivery of the chosen priorities, the Community Engagement Manager will support the Area Board councillors including in the creation and management of an action plan. This plan will include clearly defined, manageable and measurable outcomes so the intended outcome is fully understood and will, in turn, facilitate the annual review of delivery on local priorities.

The key mechanism for delivery is to support the local community to use their own experiences, abilities and passions so that they are empowered to shape and deliver positive change. To achieve this the Area Board may wish to consider

allocating funding where money is required to help deliver the required aims. The Area Board may also look to set up a local working group to lead on the delivery of a priority, especially where no suitable group already exists.

It is recommended that, for each priority selected, an Area Board councillor takes responsibility for overseeing its delivery and reporting back to the Area Board on progress. The Community Engagement Manager will support the Area Board councillors in undertaking this work.

## **6. Area Board Lead Councillor Role Description**

Area Boards are invited to appoint lead Councillor(s) representatives for each of the priority themes that they have selected. The following guiding principles are in place for Councillors who take a role as an Area Board lead for a priority theme:

- To be the main Area Board point of contact for local officers, councillors and residents within their respective lead area;
- To attend (and usually take the role as chair) relevant working groups of the Area Board;
- To work collaboratively and cooperatively with relevant local partners, community groups, volunteers and outside bodies;
- To provide regular updates back to the Area Board in relation to their lead area, including providing feedback on the success or limitations of previously funded Area Board grants;
- To diligently and democratically consider any funding applications, ensuring due process is undertaken; and
- To in consultation with the local Councillor, monitor feedback for those grant applications that relate to the local priority the lead Councillor has responsibility for, ensuring that relevant feedback on progress and outcomes is provided to the Area Board.

## **7. Recommendations**

- I. The Area Board is asked to acknowledge the progress update from the 2021/22 local priorities work.
  - II. The Area Board is asked to consider this report along with its appendices and decide upon the priorities it wishes to focus on in the coming year.
  - III. The Area Board is asked to appoint a councillor lead for each of the selected priorities.
  - IV. The Area Board is asked to appoint any required working groups in relation to each priority. Note; any existing externally operated groups may already be in place and should be acknowledged and noted.
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## APPENDIX A - Summary of progress made against priorities for 2021/22

### Positive Activities for Young People Lead – Cllr Sarah Gibson

#### Actions:

- I. Wiltshire Youth Survey promoted resulting in 182 responses from young people in the local area providing useful information on what support and activities young people require.
- II. Partners meeting organised with St Laurence School and BoA Town Council.
- III. Skate Park fundraising project promoted.
- IV. Information and sign posting through Area Board engagements, CEM and Our Community Matters platform. Including promotion of the Young Work Wiltshire offer, apprenticeship opportunities, mental health support (local and national), FUEL Summer programme of activities and the publicising of local clubs, events and activities such as Mighty Girls and BoA Youth.

Related funding: Who	What	How Much	Feedback
Holt Youth Club	Summer project and activities	£1000	Summer programme promoted to local families including regular Friday night youth club meetings and art projects (mural making, creating and racing go carts.) Event planned 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept to support YP starting a new school year (Yrs 6 and 7).
4Youth South West	New heating system and kitchen Atworth Youth Club	£4145 (capital and revenue)	New kitchen fitted, heating system partially complete.
Youth Adventure Trust	Supporting young people through the pandemic and beyond	£1950	9 vulnerable young people in BoA participated in residential camps / activities and supported by youth workers. Feedback and testimonials to be shared with Area Board.
BoACAN	Young Futures	£500 revenue	Mental Health First Aid Training promoted – update on project requested. Capital funding also awarded for online platform.
BoA Town Council	Delivering Youth services in BoA – BoA Youth programme	£2700	Regular youth club provision, 1-1 sessions and detached youth work. BoA Youth council launched along with a youth café and community mapping exercise. Summer events scheduled. Annual survey planned for later in the year. Recently recruited new youth worker and the club has seen a growth in numbers (18 since Spring)
Holt 1 <sup>st</sup> Guides	International experience	£600	Personalised trip wear purchased for international trip 29/7/22
Relateen	Counselling service	£2000	Update requested

Counselling	for students at St Laurence School		
Mighty Girls	Thursday Group	£1500	Group leader and helper recruited to run the sessions which focus on enabling girls to have a social space after lockdown to support new friendships. Activities organised focus on the themes of Friendships, Activism, Wellbeing and Body Positivity. 30 girls attend each week. Visitors and volunteers from the community have joined the sessions to share skills such as crafts, yoga, work and careers.
Skate Park	BoA Town Council	£5000	Lottery bid unsuccessful. Fundraising group continue to explore other options. Update meeting planned 3 July.

## Addressing Climate Change Lead – Cllr Tim Trimble

### Actions:

- I. Promoted the draft Wiltshire Council Climate Change Strategy and Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy consultations and encouraged local involvement and feedback. 78 responses to the Climate Strategy consultation received from the BoA community area.
- II. Invited Climate FriendlyBOA as partner on Area Board
- III. Supported BoA Climate Festival during Great Big Green Week
- IV. Supported and promoted other local environment and climate themed events and activities:
  - The Great Big Green Week
  - Repair café
  - Nature Chain
  - Save Fuel, Save the Planet
- I. Explored potential car sharing club and electric bus schemes.
- II. Participated in Local Nature Recovery Strategy Workshop
- III. Worked in partnership with BoA Town Council to secure LA Treescapes funding
- IV. Information and sign posting through Area Board engagements, CEM and the Our Community Matters Platform. Including promotion of home energy improvement grants, Warm and Safe, Plantlife digital event series, #WiltsCanDoThis campaign, Queens Green Canopy, Community Environment Toolkit and various funding opportunities such as Thrive renewables community benefit and Together for Our Planet.



## Reducing Isolation and Loneliness Lead – Cllr Johnny Kidney

### Actions:

- I. Facilitated online Health and Wellbeing meetings with focus on Prevention and Wellbeing Services, Care Home volunteers and information sharing across 18 partner organisations and groups including the local PCN, BoA surgery and Wiltshire Music Centre.
- II. Actively encouraged and supported older and vulnerable people to get out again into their communities through events and regular activities resulting in an improvement in mental health. Groups and activities promoted included St Aldhem's Thursday Club, Tea Dances, U3A, Arts together, BoA computer club and library reading groups.
- III. Supported promotion of Celebrating Age online concert programme.
- IV. Promoted activities in the BoA community area in order that those who are vulnerable, or elderly are fully supported:
  - Community Hub
  - BoA Link
  - Living Well Age UK
  - Carer's Support groups
  - Men's Shed
  - Alcohol Awareness
  - Communittea party Summer 21
  - Dementia Action Alliance
  - Addressing Loneliness campaign.
  - Family and Community learning courses.
  - Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub
- I. Worked in partnership with BoA Link scheme to facilitate transport to local memory cafes.
- II. Provided support for those in sheltered housing schemes to find suitable activities in their communities so that they do not feel isolated when previous support ended.

Related funding: Who	What	How Much	Feedback
Wiltshire Digital Drive	Unwanted laptops and tablets refurbished and distributed to the local community	£4480	Positive response from community. Update on local data requested.
We Hear You	Counselling in BOA	£2337	Update requested
Our Time Project	Move and Inspire for elders in BoA	£3900	Project delivered at Wiltshire Heights, full report to follow with video to share with the community.
Area Board initiative	Community Transport for Dementia clubs	£1300	Link drivers, BoA DAA and Alzheimer's Support worker are working together to ensure residents requiring transport can access the memory groups in the area.



## Improving Transport and access

Lead – Cllr Tim Trimble and Cllr Johnny Kidney

### Actions:

- I. Promoted 'Future of Transport' consultation and helped to boost participation from the parishes.
- II. Shared Bus Services Improvement plan and consultation with community (143 responses from BoA area).
- III. Supported discussions to enhance/utilise community transport improving accessibility to local groups and activities
- IV. Link scheme promotion and driver recruitment
- V. Regular reporting and updating of service changes through Area Board, local engagements and OCM:
  - Winsley Active Travel scheme
  - BoA Traffic Management Approach
  - Changes to Highway Code
  - Bristol / Waterloo Train service
  - Cleaveland Bridge
  - Bath Clean Air Zone
  - Improvements to Frome Road pedestrian crossing and Five Ways junction

Related funding: Who	What	How Much	Feedback
Holt Parish Council	Materials for kissing gates to improve access to countryside	£464.50	Kissing gates installed
Councillor initiative	New handrail and resurfacing at the Snicket	£3690	Project costs increased, update requested.

## Supporting the Economy

Lead – Cllr Sarah Gibson and Cllr Johnny Kidney

### Actions:

- I. Promotion of Covid relief grant opportunities in the area including grants to support retail, leisure and hospitality sectors.
- II. Information sharing and sign posting – WC business newsletters, digital training, Work Wiltshire, business mentoring, local employment opportunities, Kickstart vacancies, Help to Grow scheme, Shop Local.
- III. Promoted BoA business re-launch, Atworth Artisan markets / Apprenticeship opportunities and Glove Factory Rooster talks

## Bradford on Avon Our Community Matters Platform and Newsletters 21/22

<https://ocm.wiltshire.gov.uk/bradfordonavon/>

<b>Number of newsletters sent</b>	<b>Number of subscribers</b>	<b>Page views April 21-March 22</b>	<b>Number of contributors</b>
46	716 (March 2022)	12,010	122 (March 22)

## APPENDIX B – Suggested priorities for 2022/23

The following are some possible priorities for the Area Board to consider for the coming year

Potential Priority	Key objectives	Additional comments
Supporting the Economy	To be agreed at next Area Board meeting.	Cllr Sarah Gibson and Cllr Johnny Kidney tbc
Reducing Isolation and Loneliness	To be discussed at next health and wellbeing meeting and agreed at following Area Board	Cllr Johnny Kidney tbc
Addressing Climate Change	To be discussed at next Area Board.	Cllr Tim Trimble tbc
Positive Activities for Young People	To be discussed at next Local Youth Network meeting (July) and agreed at the following Area Board.	Cllr Sarah Gibson tbc
Improving Transport and Access	To be agreed at next Area Board meeting	Cllr Tim Trimble and Cllr Johnny Kidney tbc