

## Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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### Annual Review of Local Priorities

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- a) To report on progress made in addressing the Area Board priorities selected for 2021/22
- b) To consider any new evidence or information that will help inform the Area Board in selecting its priorities for 2022/23
- c) To highlight potential priorities for the Area Board to consider for 2022/23
- d) 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 Managers 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 Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade (RWB&C) 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 but some of the key achievements include:

**a) Young People – Health, Wellbeing and Positive Activities:**

Introduced the Community Area Youth Forum, supporting the completion of Wiltshire Council's Youth Survey and, in collaboration with Town and Parish Councils, developing local outreach and safe space youth provision.

**b) Older and Vulnerable People - Health, Wellbeing and Social Isolation:**

Established a network of town and parish representatives to enable co-production on events and activities and improve sharing of information and resources across the community area. This is called the RWB&C Community Care Group. Established a network of practitioners working in the local area (from both Wiltshire Council and partner agencies such as Carer Support) resulting in improved joined up working. Actively encouraged and supported older and vulnerable people to get out again into their communities through the Celebrating Age programme.

**c) The Environment** – formed a community area wide Environmental Forum and supporting tree planting projects.

**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.

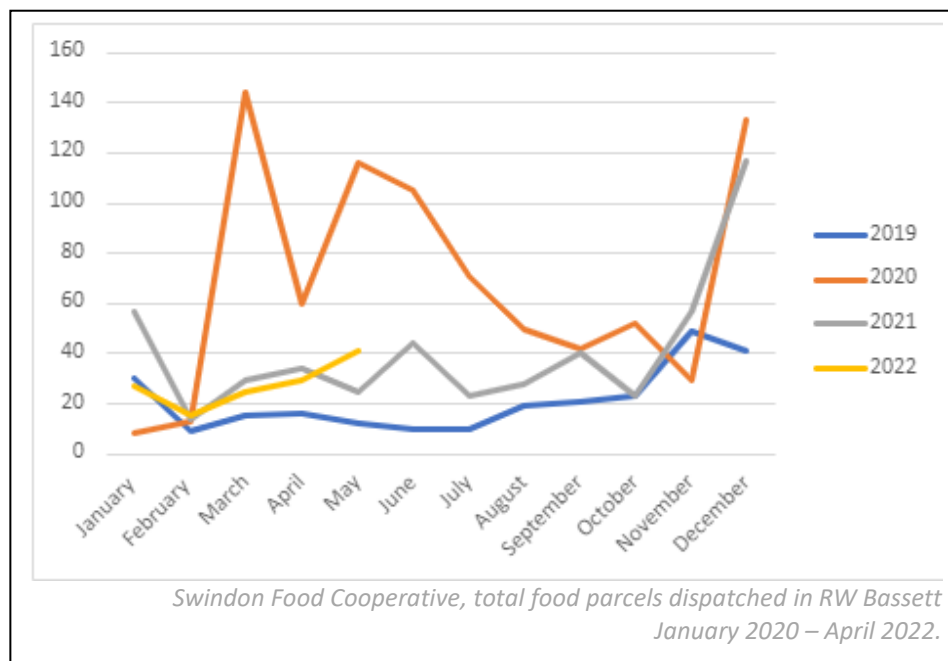
**a)** The Joint Strategic Needs Analysis was collated 2 years ago in 2020 and although it used the latest information available at the time, some it is now out of date. This is partly due the significant impact COVID-19 has had on issues such as debt, the economy and mental health as well as the release of more up to date data that was not previously available. For the RWB&C Community Area, this includes

- [Wiltshire Citizens Advice Annual Report](#)
- [Wiltshire Intelligence Bringing Evidence Together \(JSNA update\)](#)
- Wiltshire Council Youth Survey 2021

It should also be noted that:

- The Wiltshire Climate Strategy and Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy have both now been adopted and Wiltshire Council have committed themselves to being carbon neutral by 2030. The challenge is to consider what local actions we can undertake.

- Inflation is very high with fuel costs doubling or more in price. This is hitting poorer families and the elderly / vulnerable the most.
- The Swindon Food Collective (SFC) reports demand for food parcels in Royal Wootton Bassett rose dramatically during the pandemic and, while they dropped during 2021, they have not returned to previous levels, and suggest another rise is in progress and a further spike is likely this autumn.



- SFC has also supported a foodbank in Lyneham since May 2021, they report relatively low numbers of parcels dispatched, a total of 31 parcels have been dispatched in that time (none in March, April and May 2022).
- In addition the Malmesbury and District Foodbank operates once a week from the Jenner Hall in Cricklade. Stats for this outlet are not currently available.

**b)** 2021/22 Area Board priorities were selected whilst in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. The demands of the 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, anecdotal 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 continues to be high and the impact of long Covid is not yet clear.
  - 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, especially amongst young people and noted in all settings by the RWB&C Area Youth Forum.
- c) 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 community.
- d) 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](#). The Area Board should be aware of these plans and seek to help deliver them at a local level.

## 5) Agreeing and delivering priorities for 2022/23

The Community Engagement Managers 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 Managers 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 (see **Appendix C - Area Board Lead Councillor Role Description**). The Community Engagement Managers will support the Area Board councillors in undertaking this work.

## 6) Recommendations

- a) The Area Board is asked to acknowledge the progress update from the 2021/22 local priorities work.
- b) 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.
- c) The Area Board is asked to appoint a councillor lead for each of the selected priorities.
- d) 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

YOUNG PEOPLE
<p><b>Action 1.1</b> Reconvene the Community Area Youth Forum to confirm priority issues outlined in the Status Report and identify priority actions/activities that can be undertaken with and without the Area Board.</p>
<p>Supported by the CEM the Community Area Youth Forum has reconvened. Partners engaged include: RWB Town Council, Cricklade Town Council Royal Wootton Bassett Academy, Bradon Forest School, Rise Trust (Youth), Inspire to Aspire, Purton Parish Council, Cricklade Local Youth Network, RWB Local Youth Network, RWB Hockey Club, Launch to Learning, Army Welfare Service Lyneham; Police Youth /Early Intervention team, RWB Rugby Club.</p> <p>This group will update and make recommendations to the Board independently in future.</p>
<p><b>Action 1.2</b> Develop Local Youth provision, street based and café style in the town and assess provision in the villages.</p>
<p>The area board continues to collaborate with the Town Council to provide safe space and outreach youth provision, facilitated by the Rise Trust.</p>
<p><i>Funding: Collaboration match funded by RWB Town Council (AB contribution £8,650)</i>  <i>Collaboration match funded by Cricklade Town Council (AB contribution £9,230)</i></p>
<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Action 1.3/1.4</b> Investigate level of mental health support young people and their families should expect and the correct way to access that support.</p>
<p>Information has been obtained from Wiltshire Council and been discussed at the Youth Forum and included in the Forum update to the Area Board meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022.</p>
OLDER AND VULNERABLE ADULTS
<p><b>Action 2.1</b> Audit of the activity clubs to establish which are planning to reopen.</p>
<p>Audit completed with support from the town and parish councils – currently collating information into a booklet.</p>
<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Action 2.2</b> To Re-establish the Health and Wellbeing Group (H&amp;W).            This would concentrate upon information sharing and discussion of the issues and experiences raised by the OVPC group.</p>
<p>A network of town and parish representatives has been established which includes practitioners working in the local area (from both Wiltshire Council and partner agencies such as Carer Support) resulting in improved joined up working. The group is called the RWB&amp;C Community Care Group (for Plain English reasons this was preferred).</p>
<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Action 2.4</b> Support the ongoing development of the Celebrating Age project in the area.</p>

<p>Local volunteers, Area Board Champions and CEM continue to work with Celebrating Age to deliver events and activities which actively encourage and support older and vulnerable people to get out again into their communities.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p><i>Funding: AB allocated £1,500.00 to the project (Wiltshire Music Centre).</i></p>
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>
<b>Action 3.1</b> Establish an Area Board wide Environment Group
<p>First meeting of working group met on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022.</p>
<b>Action 3.2</b> Encourage Community Orchards/Tree Planting schemes
<p>Tree planting schemes undertaken by Royal Wootton Bassett Sports Association and Woodshaw Nature reserve.</p>
<p><i>Funding: AB grants £1759.50 allocated.</i></p>
<b>ECONOMY</b>
<b>Action 4.1</b> Promoting regeneration of the high streets and villages
<p>Promoted local events and activities via social media platforms to encourage visitors and residents to take part.</p>
<p><i>Funding: AB grants £5,000 allocated towards Cricklade High Street Strategy Group for economic recovery items to support tourism in Cricklade. £1,000 towards Cricklade Bowls Club to construct disabled access to bowls club.</i></p>
<b>Action 4.2</b> Raising awareness of organisations working locally to eliminate poverty (fuel, IT, financial, food)
<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Action 5.1</b> Work with Town and Parish Councils to establish a RWB&C Area Parish Forum.
<p>Wiltshire Council runs regular Town and Parish Clerk sessions and has held a recent Town and Parish Council Conference.</p> <p>There is a monthly virtual Community Safety Forum run by the Area Board, with Police and Fire and Rescue representatives.</p> <p>Face to Face Area Boards have resumed with networking opportunities.</p> <p>Town and Parish Councils have been contacted about this action – there has been a limited response with no overwhelming support for a new forum to be established.</p> <p><b>No further action at this time.</b></p>

## 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	Action	Additional comments
Young People – Mental Health and Wellbeing	<b>Action 1.3</b> - 'Year of Fun' – Members of the RWB&C Youth Forum develop a programme of inclusive, positive, and fun activities for young people to help counter mental health issues.	
Young People – Mental Health and Wellbeing	<b>Action 1.4</b> - Research the existence of food poverty among young people in the Community Area and opportunities to address that issue.	
Young People – Mental Health and Wellbeing	<b>Action 1.5</b> Review of existing local outreach and safe space arrangements.	Suggestion to review arrangements with other Northern Area's to compare approaches.
Older and Vulnerable People and families - Health, wellbeing, and social isolation	<b>Action 2.1</b> Produce and distribute information booklet containing useful information for older and vulnerable people living in the community area via the towns and parishes.	
Older and Vulnerable People and families - Health, wellbeing, and social isolation	<b>Action 2.2</b> Support the ongoing development of the Celebrating Age project in the area.	
Older and Vulnerable People and families - Health, wellbeing, and social isolation	<b>Action 2.3</b> Investigate the hospital discharge process and consider how the group can support this in the locality.	
Older and Vulnerable People and families - Health, wellbeing, and social isolation	<b>Action 2.4</b> Engage with relevant practitioners to better understand social prescribing and how to spread word of the support available.	



Older and Vulnerable People and families - Health, wellbeing, and social isolation	<b>Action 2.5</b> Complete research on local transport available which is accessible and affordable for older and vulnerable people.	
The Environment	<b>Action 3.2</b> Encourage Community Orchards/Tree Planting schemes.	
Economy (Business)	<b>Action 4.1</b> To establish current issues affecting local business and retail as we move on from the pandemic.	
Economy (Household inequalities)	<b>Action 4.2</b> Raise awareness of organisations working locally to eliminate poverty (fuel, IT, financial, food).	

## APPENDIX C – 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 sometimes Chair) relevant working groups of the Area Board;
- To work collaboratively and co-operatively 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
- In consultation with the local Councillor, to 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.