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 Councillors. It is provided to help celebrate the success so far and support the area board 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 those living in 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
    ✓ 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 but some of the key achievements include:

i.   *Positive activities for young people:* The rural youth project led by Community First has been established and is working to support activities throughout the area including the Pewsey Parish Council youth team and the youth provision set up by the Area Board in Burbage and Upavon. Working with PCAP, two one-off events were run for young people during the summer and the Pewsey Vale School became part of the Wiltshire Youth Council

ii. *Climate Change:* There has been good engagement locally with the "Wiltshire Climate Change Strategy" and "Green and Blue Infrastructural Strategy" that have both now been adopted. Work has continued to improve footpaths and support given to establish a new circular route around the community area and to obtain the "Walkers are Welcome" status

iii. *Health and wellbeing*: Funding provided to support projects aimed at older and vulnerable people in addition to 16 events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with an emphasis upon increasing the confidence of older and vulnerable people to socialise again. Active support has been given to help with the challenges of 2021/22 including COVID-19, changes in provision for older people as well as supporting those coming from Afghanistan and Ukraine.

iv. *Transport and Access:* Work has begun on improving the bus services in Pewsey Vale using Bus Better Money and Rural Mobility Fund. This promises to be a significant investment for the Pewsey community area

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 of 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. Two news sources of data for Wiltshire that have analysed data during COVID and subsequent start of the recovery are available. These are

- [Wiltshire Citizens Advice Annual Report](#)
- [Wiltshire Intelligence Bringing Evidence Together (JSNA Update)](#)

For the Pewsey Community Area, it should 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 the poorer families and the elderly / vulnerable the most.
- Bus Better money and Rural Mobility Funding have both been obtained to improve the on-demand services in the Pewsey Vale
- Research carried out by Community First who spoke to over 100 young people and their families identified a need to improve youth provision

ii. 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
- [Pewsey Community Area Partnership](#) have been updating their community plan and are near completion.
- 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

iii. 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 it is very rural and there are many who do not have access to transport or/and do not use digital forms of communication

iv. 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 1st 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 Manager in consultation with the chairman 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 that what is trying to be achieved 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.

It is also acknowledged that as priorities were selected less than a year ago, progress on some will be limited and the area board may decide it wishes to continue to focus upon them rather than select new ones.

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.
- 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 where a suitable existing externally operated groups is not already in place.

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APPENDIX A - Summary of progress made against priorities for 2021/22

1. **Positive Activities for Young People**

Actions:
  I.   Re-established virtual network for supporting young people resulting in improved joined up working
  II.   Summer activity days run in Aug 2021 provided positive activities for young people in Pewsey
  III.   Pewsey Vale School supported to become part of Wiltshire Youth Council allowing them to share local need and influence where local resources are targeted.
  IV.   Wiltshire Youth Survey promoted resulting in approximates 120 responses and providing useful information on what support young people require.
  V.   Rural Youth Project established and phase 1 completed in conjunction with 4 other area boards. This included talking to over 120 young people and families, referring young people to activities such as SPLASH and providing support for youth projects.
  VI.   Rural Youth Project engagement event held which helped inform stakeholders of the project and encourage support for further years
  VII.   Re-establish Blue Bus in Burbage and Upavon including Trenchard Lines. The bus was funded to provide an additional 6 months of support and the Area Board have paid for Community First to start working with these areas to see if a longer-term provision can be set up.
  VIII. Visited Trenchard Lines to offer support for AWS and families living there. This has established relationships and resulted in several pieces of work taking place.

Related funding:

Who	What	How Much	Feedback
Pewsey Vale Youth Football Club	Car Park works	£733.25	
Easton Royal Playground	New equipment	£470	All completed and launch event held
Easton Royal Playground	Basketball court	£2,400	All work completed
Pewsey Vale School	Mental health triage	£5,000	
Area Board Initiative	Rural Youth Outreach Project year 1	£5,000	Undertaken phase 1 and event for stakeholders completed
Area Board Initiative	Rural Youth Outreach Project year 2	£5,000	To start in Sep 2022
Open Blue	To provide provision for further 6 months in Upavon and Burbage	£3,400	Provision near completion with Community First now assisting to establish sustainable offer
Pewsey Parish Council	To provide positive activities for young people in Pewsey	£5,000	Just started project

2. **Climate Change**

Actions:
I. Promoted the draft Climate Change Strategy and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and encouraged local involvement and feedback
II. Assisted in running Wiltshire Climate Change meeting for Parish Councils and other stakeholders to raise awareness of what the issues are and how we can work in co-production together.
III. Identified some key stakeholders and the next step is to bring likeminded people together and support some local actions

Related funding:

Who	What	How Much	Feedback
Pewsey Library	Shed, hose and tools for garden	£303.31	Completed but new volunteers required
Upavon Allotments	extension of water supply for teenage plots	£731	Completed

3. Health and Wellbeing

Actions:
I. Actively encouraged and supported older and vulnerable people to get out again into their communities through events and regular activities resulting in an improvement of mental health
II. Established agreement with new library manager to link together more and utilise the library facilities so that it becomes an even greater community asset
III. Provided support for those in sheltered housing schemes to find suitable activities in their communities so that they do not feel isolated when the previous support ended.
IV. Assisted in the continuation of activities in the Pewsey area such as arts groups and Alzheimer's support in order that those who are vulnerable, or elderly are fully supported

Related funding:

Who	What	How Much	Feedback
Pewsey Zixex Club	Pewsey Christmas Lunch	£300	Very successful event for older and lonely people
Alzheimer's Support	Pewsey Arts Project	£2,500	This has allowed them to continue offering these important sessions
Bouverie Hall Community Cafe	Provision of equipment to run elderly tea and talk sessions	£982.25	Recent grant but event planned in June that will use new equiptment
Area Board initiative	Support running of Queen's jubilee events aimed at	£2,689.81	14 events planned in May/June

| | lonely, older and isolated people | | |

4. Transport and access

Actions:
I. Started to improve bus services in Pewsey Vale using Bus Better Money and Rural Mobility Fund through bringing together community, councillors and local officers. This investment should provide some of the improvements that have been asked for from bus provision.
II. Offered support to help establish broadband in village facilities to connect our communities with Alton Barnes Coronation Hall now on-line
III. Promoted the need for more link drivers due to increase in demand and fewer returning after COVID. They provide a crucial service in transporting people to hospital and other important appointments
IV. Established safe walking route from Trenchard Lines to Upavon in order that those on the camp who do not have their own transport are not isolated.
V. Support the improvement of rights of way and promoted walking to both attract tourists as well as increasing physical activity

Related funding:

Who	What	How Much	Feedback
Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership	Waymarking for new circular route	£2,500	All completed, route opened and launch of it completed.
Pewsey Area Board	To support walking and cycling	£958.94	Ongoing

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	Possible councillor lead and delivery working group
Support the provision of positive activities for young people	• Develop a youth offer in Pewsey • Ensure equal access to positive activities	Jerry Kunkler Youth Network
Protect the environment and reduce carbon footprint	• To support and link existing groups and individuals together • To support local initiatives	Jerry Kunkler
To improve bus services and access to services	• Improve the demand responsive bus services in the Pewsey Vale • Further develop and promote the rights of way	Paul Oatway Steering group for bus improvements
Health and wellbeing	• To help address loneliness and isolation • To address some of the causes of poor mental health in the area	Stuart Wheeler Health and wellbeing group