<COMMUNITY AREA> Area Board

Feb 2022

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
   ✓ 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. <priority 1 + key achievements>
ii. <priority 2 + key achievements>
iii. Etc.

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. For the <NAME OF COMMUNITY AREA>, this includes
   - <Insert new data source, relevant link and info here
   - Etc.

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
   - <List any local concerns such as lack of volunteers, particular support no longer offered etc.>

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 including <ADD LOCAL ONES e.g., local businesses , non-ICT>

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

v. <Name of Community area> has also seen some local changes that may influence the selection of priorities including:

- <List any changes such as new local community plan, specific issues arising or new opportunities>

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. 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.

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 measurable outcomes so that it is clear what is trying to be achieved and what progress is being made.

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
- To diligently and democratically consider any funding applications, ensuring due process is undertaken.

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

Input information from 2021/22 action plan

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