

REPORT TITLE: WINCHESTER TOWN VISION – PROGRESS UPDATE

17 MARCH 2022

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Kathleen Becker, Chair of Winchester Town Forum

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WARD(S): ALL TOWN WARDS

PURPOSE

It has been just over a year since the Town Form adopted the Winchester Town Vision 2020 – 2030 at their meeting in January 2021.

The Vision identified five key themes as part of the initial work (Ecology, Movement, Homes, Lifetimes and Culture). As the project moved forward towards the production of the overarching document, which drew together the key components of the new Vision for the city, three approaches were identified (Spatial, People Power! and Auditing & Sharing Resources) and these underpinned by six critical values to deliver change.

It was evident from engaging with people across Winchester that managing change is as much about the “how” as the “what.” The approach to implementation must therefore focus on how change happens, and not simply on what the change is with scope to empower communities to take action themselves.

This report gives an update on the work already carried out by the council across the Vision themes that has involved residents, community groups and local organisations since April 2021. It also reviews funding and resources, engagements and consultations and training in relation to delivering the Vision.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Town Forum:

1. Note and provide comment on the work stream activities, engagements and consultations identified in the report.
2. Consider establishing an Informal Group to oversee continued implementation of the Vision, including identifying means to fund and resource further work that will better empower communities to take action.

## IMPLICATIONS:

### 1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1 Previous reports on the Town Vision (September 2021 WTF300, January 2021 WTF 293, November 2020 WTF291) identified how both the Vision and its implementation supports and positively contributes to Council Plan outcomes. In summary this includes:
- 1.2 Tackling the Climate Emergency and Creating a Greener District outcomes: “The natural and built environment needs to be protected, maintained, sustained and enhanced” and “people to be able to move around the place easily – local people prefer to travel on foot, by bike and using public transport”. There was also support for the 15 minute city concept which reduces the need for people to travel by providing local access to facilities and services
- 1.3 Homes for all outcome: “Diverse, healthy and cohesive communities - not just homes.”
- 1.4 Vibrant Local Economy outcomes: “Increased opportunities for high quality, well-paid employment across the district” and “More young people choose to live and work in the district”.
- 1.5 Living Well outcomes: “A wide range of physical and cultural activities for all ages and abilities” and “Attractive and well-used public facilities and green spaces with space for relaxation and play.”
- 1.6 Your Services, Your Voice outcomes: “An open, transparent, inclusive and enabling council”

### 2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 The Town Form has already committed a budget of up to £9,000 to appoint consultants for member and staff training to support delivery of the Vision.
- 2.2 Budget is allocated to several grant funds, details of which are given in paragraph 13.2 below, and open space budget detailed in 13.6. Whilst these funds are not specifically associated with the delivery of the Vision, the outcomes to support community development and empowered communities do align.
- 2.3 Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy totalling £527,000 has been awarded to various local schemes that enhance the public realm and facilities. Details are given in paragraph 13.4. These projects can also help to support positive change in the city along the lines envisaged by the Vision.

### 3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 To support the efficiency of the council's commercial spend and to deliver social and environmental benefits within our local community, all procurements are carried out in accordance with the council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015. Contracts are risk assessed and are managed in accordance with the councils Contract Management Framework.

#### 4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct workforce implications arise from this report. However the way officers work with local communities in the design, development and implementation of projects and services could change to introduce different work practices and processes to projects in the town area. This may require additional training to build upon the skills staff already have to work with, and along-side residents and local community groups. This would be additional to the initial workshop planned for officers and members to help identify projects and activities that could be delivered in this way.
- 4.2 Investing in community development and resident engagement will help to ensure our neighbourhoods are safe and inviting places to live and our communities are supported. Therefore Housing will be appointing two new Neighbourhood Services Engagement Officer roles.
- 4.3 The post holders would have a number of shared responsibilities for community engagement activities across the whole district, including:
- a) Partnership engagement – working collaboratively with a diverse range of partner agencies to achieve identified community outcomes
  - b) Community events – working with other council services to support organising and attending events, groups and meetings. Identifying and establishing new events and groups where service gaps and need exists
  - c) City and town forum patrols – increased visible presence on estates, proactive patrolling for community reassurance and deterring crime and anti-social behaviour
  - d) Street meets and walkabouts – plan, hold and promote opportunities for communities to voice their concerns about local issues BHP028
  - e) Campaigns – organise targeted activities in relation to specific local issues or wider council and national campaigns
  - f) General communication, planning and delivery – effective liaison with schools, community centres, neighbourhood forums on issues that are important to them

#### 5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

#### 6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 The Vision itself was developed following extensive dialogue with stakeholders and the public and the emerging document was considered by the Forum in autumn 2020 before being adopted in January 2021.
- 6.2 The Corporate Head of Economy & Community gave a presentation at a staff management forum meeting in November 2021 on the Winchester Vision and the principle of adopting a community empowerment approach in the design, development and delivery of council projects and services. Corporate Heads and Service Leads were asked to contribute information on work, projects and engagement they have been involved with in the city / town wards over the past year. Town Ward Members were also asked for examples of work with local residents or groups that they knew of, or had been involved in, over the past year (2021/22). These have been included in this report.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The Vision for Winchester recommends a number of far reaching actions and outcomes that will positively impact on the environment in terms of sustainability, carbon emissions, air quality and ecology. This includes:
- a) 15 minute city concept.
  - b) Reduction in car use / car free streets / promotion of active transport.
  - c) Auditing resources and spaces so that they are better shared and used.
  - d) Creation and enhancement of public parks and open spaces.

## 8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 None arising from the content of the report, although officers will have regard to the considerations as set out in the Equalities Act 2010 and whether an Equality Impact Assessment will be required to be undertaken on any specific recommendations, projects and or future decisions made.

## 9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 As much of the activities and work of the Town Vision involves engagement and consultation, private individuals' personal data will be captured and retained. All personal data will be held in accordance with the Council's Data Protection Policy and comply with the six Data Protection Principles set out in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and sections 35 to 40 of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA).

## 10 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 10.1 The implementation of the Winchester Vision is in line with the council current risk appetite which is moderate. This means that the council remains open to innovative ways of working.

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
<p><b>Financial Exposure</b> Options to give greater control and empowerment to community organisations to bid for and manage funding can potentially increase the risk of both projects not being delivered as planned and increased costs.</p>	<p>Grant and funding mechanisms and agreements will require the inclusion of control measures to ensure accountability and delivery.</p> <p>Reporting and accounting will need to be robust, but still enable the support of organisations to address and rectify issues.</p>	<p>Supporting community organisations to manage and control project funding will lead to more resilience and self-sufficiency.</p>
<p><b>Exposure to challenge</b> Low risk as the Vision was developed through extensive engagement and public briefings and has been adopted by Winchester Town Forum.</p>	<p>The One Great Win website is still live and will be used to keep interested stakeholders informed of next steps and proposed actions.</p>	
<p><b>Innovation</b> The Vision recommends a new approach to the way we work with our local communities.</p> <p>Local organisations and community group may need to adopt new approaches and ways of working.</p>	<p>Both staff, members and organisations will be supported to work differently.</p>	<p>New ways of working with our communities should lead to more effective outcomes.</p>
<p><b>Reputation</b> The council fails to take forward the findings and recommendations from the Vision, and those who participated and gave over their time and energy to create it, lose trust in the process and the council.</p>	<p>Ensure that measures are put in-place to support delivery of the Vision by officers, members and communities building upon work already undertaken or planned.</p>	<p>There is potential to enhance the council's reputation by demonstrating that is taking forward the recommendations made by the participants in the working groups and is empowering communities to deliver the changes they want to make.</p>

<p><b>Achievement of outcome</b> The Vision is broad in the issues it covers and the range of recommended actions. This creates a risk that there is no ownership of the outcomes and so no responsibility for ensuring outcomes are achieved.</p>	<p>Greater involvement of residents and groups at the start of project design and delivery will create a sense of ownership in the outcomes.</p> <p>Need to create a way for people to come forward as local champions and advocates for project work in their local areas.</p>	<p>The potential to better document and showcase the community engagement work that is undertaken across the council's services on the areas covered in the Vision.</p>
<p><b>Property</b> None</p>		
<p><b>Community Support</b> Stakeholders originally involved in developing the Vision do not wish, or are not able, to participate in the engagement work or come forward as local champions and advocate for project work.</p>	<p>Greater involvement of residents and groups at the start of project design and delivery should create a sense of ownership in the outcomes.</p> <p>Need to create a way for people to come forward as local champions and advocates for project work in their local areas.</p>	<p>The One Great Win website is still live and should be used to keep interested stakeholders informed of next steps and community actions.</p>
<p><b>Timescales</b> This is a ten year vision; however there will be an expectation that change and action can be demonstrated early in the life of the Vision, which may not be possible due to the long term nature of some of the recommendations.</p>	<p>By working with residents and local groups it will be possible to identify with them what the important changes are for their areas and how these can be delivered and when.</p>	<p>A co-designed programme of actions and delivery, where resources are pooled, shared and used effectively will lead (potentially) to accelerated timescales.</p>
<p><b>Project capacity</b> Teams delivering projects do not have the capacity</p>	<p>By identifying the upcoming opportunities,</p>	<p>New ways of working with a flexible and adaptable</p>

<p>to adapt their delivery approach to incorporate community engagement / empowerment on the activities recommended in the Vision.</p>	<p>priority can be given to those that have the greatest potential for increased community empowerment. This phased and selective approach means that project capacity can be planned. Successful delivery will build skills and capacity in the longer term.</p>	<p>approach may result in increased capacity within communities to be more self-reliant and resilient, requiring less direct support by the council in the longer term.</p>
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## 11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

### 11.1 **Background - Vision Outcomes**

11.2 The Vision recommends a fundamental shift in the way the council seeks to make change happen and advocates an approach aimed towards building resilient local communities that can help deliver change themselves. Across the three workbooks which comprise the Vision, a number of key principles and values to deliver change were identified. The following is a summary of some of the projects the council has been working on, or has delivered over the past year, since April 2021, listed under each these themes which act to assist with the delivery of the Vision.

***Outcome 1: Lifetimes*** – “Looking at what it means to live in the city with a focus on connecting people to places and connecting people to each other”

11.3 Party in the Park: An annual community event which normally takes place in July each year, though hasn't done so since 2019 because of Covid. A smaller 'Jubilee Picnic in the Park' will take place this year (June 18th) and has brought together several local community groups and organisations working in collaboration to make it happen. The events are free to access and open to anyone in the City wards.

11.4 Community centres (CC): Support to community facilities and groups in the Town area, including Winnall CC, Weeke CC, Stanmore CC, Unit 12 & Highcliffe Community Forum for Action. Estates and Legal teams are in process of renewing the leases for some community buildings, extending the term to 99 years and giving more security to the organisations. A longer-term aspiration would be to see these facilities develop into a 'community hub', acting as the focal point for services to the entire community.

11.5 Playing Out: An initiative to encourage children to play in their street, with the support of their parents and neighbours and closing the road where they live for a period of time to create a safe environment for children to play. Also



financial support can be provided to any group wishing to purchase a starter pack.

- 11.6 Munch Nutrition: The council supports Munch Nutrition, a Community Interest Company, which specialise in community cookery workshops. During the last six weeks they have worked with families at the Carroll Centre in Stanmore (10 families, including 30 children) and Unit 12 (10 families, including 23 children) in Winnall. Next week a new project continues at Oliver's Battery Primary School which will also run for six weeks (15 families signed up so far) as well as another cohort of families at Unit 12 that have been signposted from the Community Food Pantry and Basics Bank. This way we can still ensure we can reach more families from different areas of the city.
- 11.7 North Walls Play Area Refurbishment: The council talked to over 200 pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 at St Bede's Primary School about the new play area proposed for North Walls, and actively sought their thoughts on what they would like to see within the new area. This information has been used to draw up a brief for play area companies to tender for the work.

**Outcome 2: Ecology** – *“The relationship between landscape, history, historic buildings people and stories”*

- 11.8 Winchester Climate Action Network (WeCAN): Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) and the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) were commissioned to support the development of climate action hubs across the city and district and aims to engage and inspire communities to take action against climate change.
- 11.9 In April 2021 surveys to find out where climate emergency activity is already happening, and the support that communities need to respond to the climate emergency, were completed. In June 2021, CSE produced a carbon footprint report for each city wards using CSE's Impact Community Carbon Calculator tool. These reports were presented during a series of webinars hosted by WinACC and CSE towards the end of June with a total of 64 people attending. Two climate action planning workshops were held in the autumn to help attendees build upon the findings from the carbon footprint reports and develop plans for local climate action.
- 11.10 Winchester District Biodiversity Action Plan: Having recently taken over the management responsibility for a closed graveyard at St Giles Hill, the council has been working closely with a volunteer group (Friends of St Giles Hill Graveyard) who manage the site on our behalf as a place of sanctuary for people and wildlife and to maintain its historical interest.

**Outcome 3: Culture** – *“Addressing what culture means to Winchester”*

- 11.11 Busket Lane / Yard artists' event: An artistic workshop for 11-16 year olds took place in Busket Yard in December 2021, in conjunction with Action Hampshire and was well attended. Attendees were given an entry level guide

into creating urban art. Many more events are in the pipeline for the coming months.

**Outcome 4: Home** – *“Looking at housing, the town centre, and neighbourhoods with a focus on the problems, delights, challenges, assets and people of the city’s distinctive neighbourhoods.”*

- 11.12 Next Generation Winchester: The project brief for the Business and Housing Policy Committee Task and Finish Group was to explore the challenges faced particularly by younger people who want to work and live in the Winchester district and the options available to the council to ensure the housing mix (tenure, affordability etc.) meets the needs of these generations and consider how this will play out across the district. This exploration was to open the dialogue with young households and the engagement took the form of online surveys and a live event. The findings included the need for a website resource presented by young people to inform young people on the issues that matter to them and attractive branding to engage younger households going forward.

**Outcome 5: Movement** – *“Actively getting around Winchester with a focus was on creating a city where access and movement patterns and behaviours are democratic, fair, and sustainable.”*

- 11.13 Winchester Wellbeing Walks: In the city there is a weekly led-walk delivered by trained volunteers. Volunteers are encouraged to work with the community/walkers to plan new routes each month.
- 11.14 Winchester Ride for Wellbeing: In partnership with Bespoke Biking, we help promote and encourage our residents to attend the ‘Ride for Wellbeing’ sessions which take place every Wednesday at 11am, free of charge. This is a great way to keep active whilst understanding safe routes within the city.
- 11.15 Walk to School Programme: This is a national campaign that takes on 17 May - 21 May 2022 to encourage more children to get active by walking to school and reaching their minimum 60 minutes of exercise per day. WCC and EA will work with local schools, in particular those within our deprived areas (All Saints and Stanmore) by offering all children that complete the weekly challenge a voucher to use the WSLP facility (i.e. free swimming).
- 11.16 Winchester Movement Strategy: A public consultation on the proposals set out in the City of Winchester Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) ran from 6th December 2021 to 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022. This is one of a series of technical studies that have been developed as part of the Winchester Movement Strategy.
- 11.17 The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan sets out a proposed network of 13 walking routes and 9 cycling corridors where improvements are to be delivered within the city over the next decade or so, and six proposed improvements that have been prioritised for delivery.



- Five Areas of Opportunity were considered, where there is potential to positively transform the built environment through redevelopment, improved connections and public realm/open space projects. These areas are:
  - a) The Broadway
  - b) Westgate
  - c) Station
  - d) North Walls
  - e) Bar End
- Winchester’s movement network should be refocused away from private vehicles to facilitating safe and pleasant walking and cycling journeys.
- Vehicles should be restricted from entering the town centre where possible, while still allowing for access for those that require a car for mobility (such as the elderly and disabled). This will improve the environment and free up space for walking and cycling.
- Land within the town centre should be used efficiently for mixed use and residential developments, making better use of car parks, vacant, underused and inefficient sites.
- Capitalise on Winchester’s existing open green spaces, including the South Downs, by improving access and facilities.
- Bring more natural elements into the town centre and create new public spaces to facilitate outdoor activities like café seating.

12.4 Following a petition that was handed to council at the start of the year from the local community, a commitment was made to further community engagement about the future of the Bar End depot site. A drop-in event was held on 8 March between 3-7.30pm at the Winchester Sport and Leisure Park for local people to put forward their views, along with an online link to make sure everyone was able to share their aspirations before disposal of the site.

### 13 **Grants and other funding to enable community activity**

#### 13.1 Community Voluntary Sector Grants

13.2 Since April 2021 grants have been awarded to 11 town organisation totalling just over £9,000.

Fund and Organisation	Paid to date (awaiting payment)
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<b>Town Forum Small Grants</b>	
Winchester Street Reach	£499
Munch CIC	£500
MHA Communities – Winchester	£500
WINACC	£316
Friends of the Family Winchester Ltd	£500
Unit 12	£500
Winchester Mediation Service	£500
Two Saints	(£490)
<b>Crowdfunder - Greener Futures</b>	
Munch CIC	£1,500
<b>Crowdfunder - Town Community Fund</b>	
No applications	
<b>Crowdfunder - Communities Positive Change</b> - these town based projects applied at a time when the Town Community Fund was closed	
Winchester Poetry Festival - Poet on the High Street	£1,500
Blue Apple - Summer Show	£750
Vineyard Churches - Vineyard Youth Bus	£1,500
<b>Total awarded</b>	<b>£9,050</b>

### 13.3 Neighbourhood CIL

13.4 To date £527,000 of WTF CIL has been agreed for allocation to infrastructure projects in the town, progressed either by the City Council or community groups. However, relatively few community groups have so far come forward to make a bid for funding and there may be scope to look at this area to see if actions can be identified so that more communities can develop schemes to improve their neighbourhoods. The projects that have been allocated funding from Winchester Town Forum to date are:

- a) Abbots Barton and Hyde Scout Group - £50,000 towards the provision of a new Scout and community facility (Community led project)
- b) Weeke Community Centre - £73,000 for an upgrade of public utilities including broadband, and widening and improvement of vehicle access to the building (Community led project)
- c) Milland Road street scene improvements - £10,000 for a proposal to introduce traffic calming measures to provide a more pedestrian friendly environment (Community led project)
- d) North Walls Pavilion projects - £295,000 towards the provision of a new pavilion (WCC led project)
- e) River Park outdoor sports facility - £99,000 for improved and upgraded lighting and security fencing (WCC led project)

### 13.5 Other funding and investment opportunities

- 13.6 The Town Forum has £50,000 in the open space budget for 2022/23 which could be used to deliver outcomes related to the Vision.
- 13.7 In June 2021, following a call from Hampshire County Council to identify schemes in relation to the Community Renewal Fund, a bid was submitted that sought investment in community and cultural development. This application was based on the Vision and, in particular, the Cultural element of the handbooks, which formed a strong and robust basis for a bid. Whilst supported by the County Council, and submitted for consideration by government, it was not successful in securing funding. However the Vision, with its key recommendations for action, enables bids of this nature to be pursued quickly and efficiently, as opposed to starting from scratch, and other opportunities like this should be explored when grant funding is announced in future.

## 14 **Embedding: Training and mainstreaming**

### 14.1 Urban Feria training sessions

- 14.2 At its September meeting last year the Town Forum agreed budget to appoint Urban Feria to run members and officer workshop session that will:

- a) Brief on the Vision and its values and principles
- b) Highlight way of working – community empowerment
- c) Capture existing or planned activities with the potential to effect change in the city.

- 14.3 Urban Feria have been contacted and are finalising their proposal to deliver the workshops, details of which will be given as a verbal up-date at the meeting.

### 14.4 Town Forum Informal Group

- 14.5 To give the implementation of the Vision continued oversight and direction it is proposed that an Informal group be set up. In addition consideration could be given to the approach that a Town Forum member become a champion for one of the five Vision themes, or a topic or project of local importance, tasked with engaging and developing this with local groups and identifying the resources to make it happen.

- 14.6 It will also be important to consider and agree how best to use the existing website and “One Great Win” branding as the work progresses. This will need to include any resource implications for its continued maintenance or expansion.

## 15 **Conclusions**

- 15.1 It can be seen that much has already been achieved through activities and engagement over the past year even if not all are directly a result of the adoption of the new Vision for Winchester. However there is more to be done

to develop community empowerment and enable people and groups to identify and deliver projects themselves.

- 15.2 The proposed workshop will allow members and officers to consider how best to implement the Vision ambitions and to develop a plan for finding these opportunities and building from them. This work was detailed in the report to the Town Forum in September 2021 and will take place in the coming months.
- 15.3 There are existing levers that can be used to help this especially through the grant programmes. Consideration needs to be given to what is the best mechanism to achieve better community engagement and take up of the grants, perhaps by reshaping how they are promoted and distributed.
- 15.4 To ensure progress is made against the Vision principles and recommendations it is proposed that the Town Forum create an Informal Group which could include members nominated as champions for a theme or area of work.

## 16 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 16.1 Do nothing: The Vision for Winchester has been adopted by the Town Forum and its development represented a significant investment of resources for the council. The council could opt to only use this document to promote an approach, and as a useful reference guide, without developing more specific plans for taking forward and embedding the approach and recommendations across the council in relation to its work across the city. This option is rejected. In order to capitalise on the investment made by the council, and the efforts of the stakeholders who participated in the development of the Vision, it should lead to change in how we work with our residents and help to deliver real change on the ground in local communities.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

### Previous Committee Reports:-

WTF300 – Winchester Town Forum - 16 SEPTEMBER 2021: Vision for Winchester 2030 – Update

<https://democracy.winchester.gov.uk/documents/s16841/WTF300%20Vision%20Update%20Report.pdf>

WTF293 – Winchester Town Forum 28 January 2021 VISION FOR WINCHESTER

<https://democracy.winchester.gov.uk/documents/s13889/WTF293%20Report%20-%20Vision%20for%20Winchester.pdf>

WTF291 – Winchester Town Forum 24 November 2020 – Vision for Winchester update

Other Background Documents:-

Winchester District Local Plan Strategic Issues and Option Consultation Feb- April 2021

[https://res.cloudinary.com/studio-republic/images/v1613144166/wdlp/YPYP\\_Consultation\\_Doc\\_V4/YPYP\\_Consultation\\_Doc\\_V4.pdf](https://res.cloudinary.com/studio-republic/images/v1613144166/wdlp/YPYP_Consultation_Doc_V4/YPYP_Consultation_Doc_V4.pdf)

Local Plan: Winchester Design Workshops Report of Workshop 2: Winchester Town; January 2022; Design South East

<https://democracy.winchester.gov.uk/documents/s18856/Item%203%20Workshop%202%20report.pdf>

Winchester Vision 2020-2030

<https://www.onegreatwin.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Winchester-Vision-2030-Part-3.pdf>

APPENDICES:

NONE