

REPORT TITLE: WINCHESTER TOWN VISION - PROGRESS UPDATE

13 MARCH 2023

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

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WARD(S): ALL TOWN WARDS

PURPOSE

This report gives an update on the work that contributes to the Winchester Town Vision carried out by the council since the first progress update in March 2022. The report is organised under the five Vision themes and demonstrates how the council has worked with and involved residents, community groups and local organisations in the wide range of activities over the past year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Town Forum:

1. Note and provide comment on the Winchester Town Vision outcomes related work and activities, engagements and consultations identified in the report.

IMPLICATIONS:1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1 Previous reports on the Town Vision 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. Through Vision outcomes 2 – Ecology and 5 - Movement, projects support the priorities of “The natural and built environment needs to be protected, maintained, sustained and enhanced” and “people can move around the place easily and prefer to travel on foot, by bike and using public transport”.
- 1.3 Homes for all. Through Vision outcome 4 – Homes, projects support the priority of “Diverse, healthy and cohesive communities - not just homes.”
- 1.4 Vibrant Local Economy. Through Vision outcome 3 – Culture, projects support the priority “More young people choose to live and work in the district”.
- 1.5 Living Well. Through the Vision outcomes 1- Lifetimes and 5 - Movement projects support the priorities of; “Attractive public spaces where people feel safe and secure”, “A wide range of physical and cultural activities for all ages and abilities”, “Close work with local charities and voluntary organisations helping those most in need”, and “Increased opportunities for active travel”.
- 1.6 Your Services, Your Voice. By delivering against the Vision principle of “people power” and the critical values of “leadership through listening” and “openness, flexibility and responsiveness” activities support the priority of “An open, transparent, inclusive and enabling council”

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 Budget is allocated to several grant funds, details of which are given in Tables 1 and 2. Whilst these funds are not specifically associated with the delivery of the Vision, the fund outcomes to support community development and empowered communities do align.
- 2.2 Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy totalling £1,225,000 has been awarded to various local schemes that enhance the public realm and facilities. Details are given in Table 3. 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 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. All grants awarded have a grant agreement that stipulates the terms and condition under which the grant is provided.

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct workforce implications arise from this report. However the progress report to the Town Forum in March 2022 (WTF307) identified that additional resource was being create through two new Neighbourhood Services Engagement Officer roles in Housing. The posts would have responsibilities for community engagement activities across the whole district including; partnership engagement; community events; city and town patrols; street meets and walkabouts and campaigns and communication. Both posts are still vacant but it is anticipated that temporary staff will be appointed to cover the roles for six months. In the meantime, the Neighbourhood Services & Community Safety Team have picked up the responsibility and details of the work they have been involved with in the town over the past year is detailed under Outcome Four – Homes.

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 Council Service Leads and Managers have been asked to contribute information on work, projects and engagement they have be involved with in the city / town wards over the past year. 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 or sustainability, carbon emissions, air quality and ecology. Thought the year a range of projects and action have contributed to improving ecology, advice on reducing energy consumption and increasing opportunities for active travel.

8 PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

- 8.1 None arising from the content of this up-date 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 may be captured and retained in the course of delivering these project activities. If that is the case,

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.

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
<p>Financial Exposure 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>Exposure to challenge Low risk as the Vision was developed through extensive engagement and public briefings and has been adopted by Winchester Town Forum.</p>	<p>Reporting annually on the projects and actions in support for the Vision outcomes demonstrates publically what has been delivered</p>	
<p>Innovation 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>A guide/toolkit to how residents and community organisations can take forward local projects will be created.</p>	<p>New ways of working with our communities should lead to more effective outcomes.</p>
<p>Reputation 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</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</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</p>

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
create it, loose trust in the process and the council.	planned.	working groups and is empowering communities to deliver the changes they want to make.
Achievement of outcome 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.	Greater involvement of residents and groups at the start of project design and delivery will create a sense of ownership in the outcomes.	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.
Property None		
Community Support 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.	Greater involvement of residents and groups at the start of project design and delivery should create a sense of ownership in the outcomes. Need to create a way for people to come forward as local champions and advocates for project work in their local areas.	
Timescales 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.	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.	A co-designed programme of actions and delivery, where resources are pooled, shared and used effectively will lead (potentially) to accelerated timescales.
Project capacity Teams delivering projects do not have the capacity to adapt their delivery approach to incorporate community engagement / empowerment on the activities recommended in	By identifying the up-coming opportunities, priority can be given to those that have the greatest potential for increased community empowerment. This phased and selective approach	New ways of working with a flexible and adaptable approach may result in increased capacity within communities to be more self-reliant and resilient, requiring less direct support

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
the Vision.	means that project capacity can be planned. Successful delivery will build skills and capacity in the longer term.	by the council in the longer term.

11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 11.1 This up-date report follows the same format as the report to Town Forum in March 2022 by setting out project activities over the past year by each of the five outcomes in the Town Vision.
- 11.2 **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 Ukrainian refugee response – Over the past year the city has welcomed 488 Ukrainian refugees. A range of support and help has been provided by the council and with and by a number of local agencies and organisations. Welcome packs have been created, translated and distributed, 17 information hubs held (10 in the Guildhall and seven in the district to date) and three advice events for hosts and guests plus a range of support sessions to the refugees including: budgeting, business set up support, independent living, supplemented by bi-weekly online support sessions for the hosts and guests.
- 11.4 Cost of Living – In response to the crisis the council has funded a series of support measures including the provision of grants community and voluntary organisations. The grants helps these organisations provide additional and or enhanced advice and information, warm places to meet and access help etc. To date 4 organisations working in the city have been awarded £13,300 in funds.
- 11.5 Table 1 Cost of Living – Community Organisation Grants

Organisation	Grant	Location
Unit 12	£3,400	St Bartholomew
MHA Communities Winchester	£4,947	St Michael
STREET REACH	£3,528	St Bartholomew
Winchester & District Young Carers	£1,426	Town centre and district

- 11.6 Party in the Park - The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the volunteers and committee members who were responsible for running and organising the event with several stepping down due to age and poor health. As a consequence the group had to effectively start again trying to identify volunteers who were willing and able to provide support. As a consequence some good relationships have been developed with several local community

groups, including St Luke's church, Stanmore Gardening Group, The Carroll Centre and the Scouts as well as some well-established organisations such as Play to the Crowd and Move Momentum. It is hoped that working collaboratively they will be able to secure a more sustainable future for the event becoming less reliant on the support and intervention of Council Officers.

- 11.7 Community Centres - We continue to support these facilities as and when we are asked for help. Some of the centres and their users have been impacted greatly after the pandemic and are still struggling as we enter into a Cost of Living crisis. Our support more recently has focussed on providing help and information to encourage them to reduce their energy costs and improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon footprints and directing them towards funding streams such as LoCASE which has resulted in several applications being made/considered.
- 11.8 There has been some initial discussion with Action Hampshire and Community First in regard to developing a 'Community Forum' for staff and trustees of community facilities. This would follow a similar format to the Hampshire Community Forum.
- 11.9 **Outcome 2: Ecology** – *“The relationship between landscape, history, historic buildings people and stories”*
- 11.10 Abbey Gardens Play Area – In summer 2022 consultation for the refurbishment of Abbey Gardens Play Area was held via a three week online survey and an in person one with anyone using the play area over a three day period.
- 11.11 Highcliffe Forum – Working with the community group to deliver biodiversity benefits in the community. A species-rich grassland border is planned for Gordon Avenue Play Area with the council providing advice from an ecological and practical sense.
- 11.12 Abbotts Barton/Wilder Hyde Community Group - Working with the community group to deliver biodiversity benefits on grassland in their area.
- 11.13 Winchester Green Week – The council collaborated with the organisers of Green Week, which ran from 24 September to 2 October 2002, to support the event and encourage large numbers of people to attend the numerous activities.
- 11.14 Winchester Climate Action Network (WeCAN) – Financial support to, and collaboration with, WinACC to co-ordinate the WeCAN network, which brings together community groups and representatives from the city and wider district to share learning and ideas for how their communities can take action to reduce carbon emissions.
- 11.15 **Outcome 3: Culture** – *“Addressing what culture means to Winchester”*

- 11.16 Enchanted Light Garden – First held in February 2022 the lights event is back in Abbey Gardens. Over three weeks between 11th Feb and 5th March the gardens will be transformed with displays of light-up tunnels, fairy tale creatures and flowery delights. This is a chance for residents to experience the gardens in new way, with plenty of photo opportunities and drinks and refreshment from local businesses.



- 11.17 A Cultural Network meeting was held on 24 January 2023 at the Cabinet Rooms where residents and creative professionals had the opportunity to meet with each other, network and discuss creative ideas.
- 11.18 Nine editions of Arts news were dispatched to both residents and creative professionals promoting what's on, jobs and opportunities as well as feature stories to over 500 recipients across the city and district.
- 11.19 **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.”*
- 11.20 Pride in Place - this is a partnership collaboration aimed at addressing anti-social behaviour across the city centre. As part of this partnership working, we have secured funding from Police and Crime Commissioner for deployable cameras to be used in suitable ASB hotspots.
- 11.21 Welcome to the Neighbourhood – is a partnership project aimed at helping students settle into the wider community. The project included the use of social media messages, literature being made available on the council website and Neighbourhood Service Officer attended student events where we gave out free cotton shopping bags to discourage the use of plastic carrier bags.
- 11.22 Tackling anti-social behaviour - Partnership meetings include the lead or support to the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) panel, Tactical meetings,

Domestic Violence forum, Shop Watch, School Liaison group, Hampshire Prevent Board, and Missing exploited and traffic partnership meeting.

- 11.23 Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety team have undertaken a number of street briefs/block briefs/door knocks/letter drops in response to local concerns or incidents of anti-social behaviour across the town forum area and wider district. This has included a block brief at Earle House and Hyde Gate and street brief in Kings Worthy. During block briefs and street briefs residents have had the opportunity to complete a short survey to provide information on the anti-social behaviour they have experienced.
- 11.24 Winchester City Council Housing TACT - meeting answering residents' questions around the work of the Neighbourhood Service and Community Safety Team. Responded to questions around ASB and in response to a request from the group, developed an officer poster to identify those making site visits to sheltered housing.
- 11.25 **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.”*
- 11.26 New cycle storage is being installed in the city centre over the coming months. This reflects the plan as discussed with the Town Forum. It includes cycle storage hubs in Middlebrook Street and Colebrook Street car parks and expansion of existing cycle storage areas.

12 Spatial Context

- 12.1 The Winchester District Local Plan - The Strategic Planning Team consulted on the Regulation 18 Local Plan (LP) from November – December 2022. The Reg. 18 LP included a number of key outcomes from the Winchester Vision (e.g. 15 minute neighbourhoods and a greater emphasis on raising the bar on design).
- 12.2 As part of this consultation, paper copies of draft Reg. 18 LP were available at the two libraries in Winchester. The team held two LP drop events – one at the Mercure hotel and the second one at Littleton village hall. The Reg. 18 LP public consultation was advertised on a number of digital radio stations – targeted to specific postcodes in and around Winchester and on Winchester radio station. A presentation on the Reg. 18 LP and how to get involved in the public consultation was also given to the Town Forum and the Winchester BID. Posters about the public consultation were also distributed to a range of places in and around Winchester Town (places of worship, doctor's surgery's, local gyms, the hospital, community centres and Parish Councils that abut Winchester Town).
- 12.3 Discussion are currently taking place with the Town Forum and the City of Winchester Trust about the possibility of taking forward a Local Design Code in Winchester Town.

- 12.4 Central Winchester Regeneration - an archaeology update session was hosted online in July to share progress about the archaeology work underway on the site. The event was open to all and 32 participants joined to take part in discussing the work undertaken to date, sharing the findings so far and considering what was planned next for the investigations.
- 12.5 Bar End Depot - We carried out public consultation in relation to the marketing of the Bar End Depot site. We got nearly 50 expressions of interest and wanted to gauge the public's comments to the mix of uses received. Those invited to participate include residents of Highcliffe, including all community groups based in that area, local councillors, Everyone Active the operator of the new Winchester Sport and Leisure Park, and St Giles Hill Residents Association. The outcome was over 100 completed feedback forms, the results of which were analysed and a report is being drafted to recommend the best mix of uses.
- 12.6 Station Approach – work is progressing on the Station Approach scheme and an on-site walk around with local residents was undertaken to give them an opportunity to ask questions of officers and members about the development.

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

13.1 Community Voluntary Sector Grants

13.2 Since April 2022 grants have been awarded to 14 town organisations totalling just over £11,500. Summary of awards is given in Table 2 below.

13.3 Table 2. Voluntary & Community Sector Grants

Fund	Organisation	Award Value
District Small Grants	Winnall Community Association	£479
	The Olive Branch Counselling Service	£420
	Friends of St Giles Hill Graveyard	£500
	STREET REACH	£479
	Churches Together in Winchester	£500
	Wildfire Youth Project CIC	£500
Town Forum Small Grants	Dentaid	£1000
	Munch CIC	£827
	Weeke Community Centre	£896
	Winchester Pregnancy Crisis Centre	£990
	Winchester Castle FC	£960
Crowdfunder	Olive Branch Counselling	£2500
	Unit 12	£500
	Design Junction	£1000
	Total Awarded	£11,551

13.4 Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

13.5 Since April 2022 £275,000 of Town Forum CIL has been agreed for allocation to infrastructure projects in the town, progressed either by the City Council or community groups. Table 3 provides a summary breakdown for the schemes that have been awarded neighbourhood CIL

13.6 Table 3 – Neighbourhood CIL project awards 2022-23

Project	WTF CIL	District CIL	Total
KGV Park Plan	£50,000	£150,000	£200,000
KGV Pavilion *	£200,000	£800,000	£1,000,000
Total	£250,000	£950,000	£1,200,000

13.7 * KGV Pavilion has already been awarded district CIL funding from a previous year, so the total allocated is actually £1,250,000 of district CIL.

13.8 A new call and window for applications commenced in January and will close at the end of March.

13.9 **Conclusions**

13.10 As with the first year of reporting it can be seen that much has been achieved through activities and engagement over the past year that support the five Town Vision outcomes. So all the work is recorded over time and in response to the concept of 100 wins, a log of projects, events, engagements, grant awards and infrastructure investments has been created. See Appendix 1.

13.11 However there is more to be done to develop community empowerment and enable people and groups to identify and deliver projects themselves. To that end work is underway to create a guide for residents and community organisation on the “steps to get your project realised”. This will be a toolkit to help local community groups, residents and organisations to bring forward new, improved or changed facilities in their local areas. It will also be a guide with useful tips and sources of information and support, from the council and local and national organisations.

14 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

14.1 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:-

WTF307 – Winchester Town Forum, 17 March 2022: Winchester Town Vision – progress update

[WTF307 - Winchester Town Vision progress update.pdf](#)

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

[WTF300 Vision Update Report.pdf \(winchester.gov.uk\)](#)

WTF293 – Winchester Town Forum 28 January 2021 VISION FOR WINCHESTER

[WTF293 Report - Vision for Winchester.pdf](#)

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

[WTF291 Vision for Winchester.edited.pdf](#)

Other Background Documents:-

Winchester Vision 2020-2030

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

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Winchester Town Vision – 100 wins log