

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

9<sup>th</sup> February 2022

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT IN SUPPORT OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING NEEDS – AN OUTLINE PROPOSAL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>THE COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH REFERENCE GROUP</b>

## REPORT SUMMARY

This outline proposal from the Community, Voluntary and Faith Reference Group relates to its principal aim of building and supporting the development of local environmental green space, in support of ongoing programmes and plans to meet the health and wellbeing needs of Wirral's communities and residents.

Minute 19, Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The Chair advised the Board that given the breadth of the sector, it was difficult to have one representative of the whole sector, therefore a Reference Group was in development to feed into the Health and Wellbeing Board collectively.

Minute 25, Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 refers to the report which details the background to the establishment of the Reference Group and the overall aim of the group and its relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Organisations around the table were encouraged to develop community-based approaches to utilise the extensive knowledge, expertise and experience in communities on how services can support local residents

Item 3.1 of that report in Background Information reads 'A literature search conducted by Community Voice (CV), the broker asked to form the reference group, found no evidence of a CVF Reference Group being formed by a Health and Wellbeing Board whose aim was to further engagement between the sector and between communities and residents.

Reference Groups are regular features in the sciences and, by and large, populated by peers and experts.

This report affects all wards within the borough.

It is not a key decision.

## RECOMMENDATION/S

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Consider and support the establishment of a local environmental green space infrastructure plan based on established best practice within the UK to improve the quality of and access to green infrastructure to support and help to meet the health and wellbeing needs of residents.

2. Consider and support specifically that the local green space infrastructure strategy be based on the development of local green spaces including improving existing green spaces and increasing urban green spaces, on a ward- by-ward basis.
3. Consider and support that the green space infrastructure development and design follow the national and well-established and successful approaches as found, for example, in community and therapeutic gardening projects across the UK.
4. Consider and support that appropriate multi-agency teams, working in full partnership with communities and residents and their elected representatives, be formed to design and develop local green space plans, following a civic ecology approach, to provide facilities to support enhanced health and wellbeing of residents.
5. Consider and support the development of a detailed proposal for sustainable green infrastructure development and design with all stakeholders working together in full partnership with the Community, Voluntary, Faith and Social Enterprise (CVFSE) sector coordinating its preparation.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 Wirral's Interim Health Impact Assessment (2019)<sup>1</sup> provides data evidencing the health inequalities across the Borough whilst identifying several strategic objectives including to: 'Protect and improve the quality and accessibility of green space, green infrastructure and nature, whilst protecting and enhancing biodiversity and ensuring that development delivers net environmental gains where possible.' The report identifies the positive benefits that improving access to environmental assets can have on the local population's health and wellbeing, whilst highlighting the risks of not doing so (p.37-38).
- 1.2 In July 2019 Wirral Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency at a meeting of full council. This was followed in December 2019 of the publication of Cool 2 Wirral: A Strategy for Wirral in the Face of The Global Climate Emergency<sup>2</sup>, which proposed a set of goals and objectives to reduce carbon emissions and limit negative impact. The Wirral Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy (Nov 2020)<sup>3</sup> identifies the challenges in delivering improved Green and Blue Infrastructure projects and that 'actions are required to draw on the energy, expertise and resources of a broad range of partners, including community-led and voluntary initiatives – in order to build the network.' The Green and Blue Infrastructure framework can act as an anchor on which

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<sup>1</sup> Interim Health Assessment of Emerging Wirral Local Plan, Hitch Marketing, November 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Cool 2- A Strategy for Wirral in the face of the global climate emergency, December 2019

<sup>3</sup> Wirral Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, Part One; Land Use Consultants Ltd, November 2020

to build regeneration initiatives in declining urban areas, contributing to nature 'on the doorstep' and encouraging families to live in city neighbourhoods.

- 1.3 The 2017 World Health Organisation paper: Urban green spaces: a brief for action<sup>4</sup> states that: "Urban green space is a necessary component for delivering healthy, sustainable and liveable cities. Urban green space interventions can deliver positive health, social and environmental outcomes for all population groups, particularly among lower socioeconomic status groups. There are very few, if any, other public health interventions that can achieve all of this."
- 1.4 An up-to-date detailed analysis and report on COP 26 and the challenge of achieving net zero emissions is set out by Localis in their publication COP26, Why Local Delivery Matters<sup>5</sup>, (9<sup>th</sup> November 2021)
- 1.5 The Reference Group, in developing its relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board, has the opportunity, through working in partnership, to assist the development of local green space infrastructure and multi-agency approaches, including social prescribing, to facilitate community and residents' access to and engagement with green spaces to enhance their health and wellbeing.

## **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 An alternative option would be for the Council to develop and coordinate the programme through its membership of Locality and the Keep it Local initiative. Full Council 22 October 2019 Agenda item 82 Motion (5) Wirral Council to commit to Keep It Local Campaign.

## **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 During the pandemic, and in anticipation of a much-changed landscape for the delivery of social care, Community Voice (CV) carried out a comprehensive study of emerging and established best practice<sup>6</sup>.
- 3.2 Prior to the pandemic, and as part of a review of the Constituency Model for Neighbourhood Working, members of the Community of Practice and Community Representatives produced a report based on the full involvement of communities and residents<sup>7</sup>.
- 3.3 NHS England have produced Guidance on the involvement of communities, their residents, and the Community, Voluntary and social Enterprise (CVSE) Sector in the design and development of local systems within central government's revised legal framework. Guidance has also been provided in the key role of the Provider Collaborative through which funding for infrastructure development along best practice lines would be expected

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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<sup>4</sup> Urban green spaces: a brief for action, World Health Organisation, Europe, 2017

<sup>5</sup> COP26, Why local Delivery Matters, Localis, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

<sup>6</sup> 'Doing it to, doing it for, doing it with'. CV, Jan 2021.

<sup>7</sup> Proposals for a Revised Method of Neighbourhood Working, June 2018.

- 4.1 Building infrastructure to support working partnerships involving the Community Voluntary and Faith (CVF) sector, communities and their residents will require a significant proportion of central government funding associated with 'levelling up' etc. This funding aimed at 'keeping people well' will need to be invested wisely and against appropriate investment return criteria based on social value and/or public value.
- 4.2 Building infrastructure to support working partnerships involving the CVF sector, communities and their residents is likely to require significant investment
- 4.3 The favoured approach in best practice is the establishment of Community Investment Funds, (CiF), initially as pump priming, but then, by returning a proportion of savings accruing from social and public value benefit streams, such funds can be replenished and developed to serve more and more local working partnerships to generate further value and benefits to communities and residents in need.
- 4.4 The CVF sector, acting through an agreed representative organisation, is best placed to manage a CiF in the interests of the working partnerships, ensuring that investments are supported by detailed business plans and ROIs based on social and public value determinations.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Establishing Reference Groups and forming a representative CVF sector organisation to inform decision making from the knowledge and perspectives of these groups and the CVF sector, can and must be a key component of place-based partnership working.
- 5.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board may invite representatives of other bodies to participate in Board discussions to support effective decision making.
- 5.3 The Reference Group will be required to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of progress and bring forward detailed proposals in due course.

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 No additional resources for the formation and operation of a Reference Group are anticipated. All contributions to the Reference Group are to be on a voluntary basis.
- 6.2 Consideration of the resources needed to form a representative CVF sector organisation will be considered separately

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 There is a risk that the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector are not fully and actively engaged in matters relating to the Health and Wellbeing of Wirral's residents. This report seeks to mitigate that risk.
- 7.2 There is a risk that the CVF Sector are unable to come together to form a representative organisation.
- 7.3 There is a risk that government funding to support a programme of levelling up and the establishment of local infrastructure through the Health and Care Bill may not be forthcoming.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Engagement with communities and their residents will be at the centre of all aspects of partnership working, aided by the development of local infrastructure to support place-based activities to improve health and wellbeing.
- 8.2 The current wider CVF and ongoing task and finish process being conducted, will serve to encourage collaborative working partnerships involving key stakeholders and further enable and inform community representation and involvement.
- 8.3 Consultation, with the full involvement and participation of locally elected representatives and with the providers of services. will always be considered as an essential. The level of participation and involvement to be discussed and agreed locally.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:
- tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
  - advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
  - foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 9.2 This outline proposal seeking approval to prepare a detailed proposal working in full partnership with all key stakeholders carries the responsibilities for equality of the CVF Reference Group.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Environmental factors are, in many ways, acknowledged as a key driver for supporting good health and have been recognised as such for decades.
- 10.2 Open space for recreation and exercise can play a significant part in keeping people well and safe.
- 10.3 Looking after the environment is a global challenge needing the full attention at all levels of society as it is widely accepted that failure to do so is adversely affecting the climate.
- 10.4 The challenge of looking after the local environment, within a place-based system for improving health and wellbeing, can create a strong sense of ownership at community level and pride in joint ownership.

10.5 The development of local infrastructure will provide a natural platform for local initiatives associated with the environmental with clear health benefits to the community.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 This proposal is in line with the WBC Community Wealth Building Strategy 2020-2025, approved by Cabinet in February 2020.

11.2 A wealthy community is also a healthy community and access to local open green space delivers a significant benefit to individuals health and wellbeing. It has a particular benefit to mental health wellbeing.

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## **APPENDICES**

N/A

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Interim Health Assessment of Emerging Wirral Local Plan; Hitch Marketing, November 2019  
Cool 2 A strategy for Wirral in the face of the Global Climate Emergency, December 2019  
Wirral Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy, Land Use Consultants Ltd, November 2020  
Urban green spaces; a brief for action, World Health Organisation Europe, 2017  
COP26, Why Local Delivery Matters, Localis, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
Designing a Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board CVF Reference Group: May 2021  
'Doing it to, doing it for, doing it with', Community Voice Jan 2021  
Proposals for a Revised Method of Neighbourhood Working, June 2018  
The White Paper, 'Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and care for all'  
The Health and Care Bill