

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 6th July 2021

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 21 July 2021

Report of: Director Transformation

Title: Wellbeing Exeter Strategy 2021-2024

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

This report describes the proposed continuation of the Wellbeing Exeter programme and associated governance review alongside the strategy and resource plan for delivering the programme to March 2024.

2. Recommendations:

That the Executive Committee consider and Council agree:

- 2.1 Agree the recommendations set out in the Wellbeing Exeter Review report set out as Appendix 1;
- 2.2 Delegated authority to the Director – Transformation and Service Lead – Active and Healthy people to enter into a contractually binding agreements with strategic partners to deliver the Wellbeing Exeter programme for 2021-2024;
- 2.3 Delegated authority to Director – Transformation and the Service Lead – Active and Healthy people in agreement with the Portfolio Holder – Communities & Culture, to spend earmarked CIL funds amounting to £794,682 in respect of the Wellbeing Exeter programme from the Neighbourhood Portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy for the period from 2021 to 2024. This forms part of the full proposed programme budget of £3,385,516 with pooled resources provided by our strategic programme partners as follows:
 - Devon County Council (£729,766);
 - Sport England (£1,428,500)
 - Local Exeter Primary Care Networks (£410,568);
- 2.4 The adoption of the new governance proposal for Wellbeing Exeter appended to this report.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

- 3.1 In July 2019 the Council adopted the Exeter Grants Programme, a sustainable funding pipeline for the delivery of community grants, including the Wellbeing Exeter Programme made up of a variety of funding including the Neighbourhood Portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy
- 3.2 Wellbeing Exeter is a partnership of public, voluntary and community sector organisations working together to provide the firm foundations for individuals and communities to promote and improve their own health and wellbeing. The partnership brings together key strategic funders pooling resources to deliver the holistic programme: Devon County Council, Exeter City Council, Sport England and Primary Care Networks (x4).
- 3.3 Exeter City Council pools the funding from these strategic partners and the programme is managed by local delivery partner Devon Community Foundation
- 3.4 In July 2019 Sport England awarded Exeter City Council a lottery funding agreement of £1,759,000 to expand Wellbeing Exeter and embed active lifestyles within the programme as part of the national Local Delivery Pilot scheme. This is part of the Exeter & Cranbrook 'Live & Move' programme currently resourced to March 2025
- 3.5 The recent COVID-19 pandemic and the key role that Wellbeing Exeter played in the Council community response highlighted the need to bring strategic partners together to review programme delivery and commit to a new 3 year strategy
- 3.6 A key aim for the re-designed Wellbeing Exeter model is to respond to the challenges identified through COVID-19 and deliver a programme that supports those residents and communities suffering the greatest health impact as a result of the pandemic
- 3.7 System partners across the city identified the Wellbeing of Exeter residents and communities as one of the key priorities of the Liveable Exeter Place Board in delivering its COVID-19 City Recovery Strategy.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources?

- 4.1 The Exeter Grants Programme agreed by Council in July 2019 committed £260,000 per year of Neighbourhood Portion of Community Infrastructure Levy to deliver the Wellbeing Exeter programme for 3 years to March 2022.
- 4.2 A further £264,859 for 2022/23 and £270,157 for 2023/24 of Neighbourhood Portion of CIL to be committed to deliver the 3 year programme.
- 4.3 This represents a total of £794,682 of Neighbourhood CIL, alongside a proposed partner resource commitment of £2,590,834 to deliver the programme. This match funding towards a pooled resource for Wellbeing Exeter is supported by:

- 4.3.1 Devon County Council (£729,766), (NB – please note this has not yet been contractually agreed, this is agreed in principle subject to an annual break clause)
- 4.3.2 Sport England (£1,428,500)
- 4.3.3 local Exeter Primary Care Networks x 4 (£410,568); (NB – 2021/22 amount confirmed, subject to further contractual agreement in 2022/23 and 2023/24)

4.4 There will be an annual review based on sufficient CIL receipts received to ensure the ongoing commitment to the Wellbeing Exeter programme

4.5 The strategic programme management as the accountable body and servicing the new governance structure will be managed within existing resources of the Active & Healthy People team

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 The proposed commitment is noted. At 31 March 2021, the balance on Neighbourhood CIL is £1.089m, which will cover this commitment, however other funds committed from the Neighbourhood CIL funding mean that the Council will require further CIL contributions over the next few years. The current expectation is that further funds will materialise.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a planning charge that local authorities can require of most types of new development (based on £s per square metre) in order to pay for the infrastructure needed to support development. Regulation 59A of the CIL Regulations envisages that a local authority should engage with communities where development has taken place (in this case the city of Exeter) and agree on spending priorities with regard to the neighbourhood portion of CIL. The amount of neighbourhood CIL equates to at least 15% of levy receipts for chargeable development in an area where there is no neighbourhood plan and 25% for chargeable development in an area where there is a neighbourhood plan.

6.2 The 15%/25% neighbourhood portion of CIL must be spent in accordance with the statutory criteria set out in Regulation 59F and Paragraph 73 of the PPG as summarised below. Regulation 59F of the CIL Regulations states: "...the charging authority (i.e. Exeter City Council) may use the CIL...to support the development of the relevant area by funding- (a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or (b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area."

6.3 There is an existing lottery funding agreement in place with Sport England for their commitment to the programme as part of the Local Delivery Pilot programme. An existing agreement is in place for the Primary Care Networks funding to March 2022. A new agreement will be developed with Devon County Council agreeing their commitment to the programme

6.4 A new grant agreement for the delivery of Wellbeing Exeter will be developed and agreed by all strategic funding partners

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

This report raises no issues for the Monitoring officer

8. Report details:

- 8.1 Wellbeing Exeter is a partnership of public, voluntary and community sector organisations working together to provide the firm foundations for individuals and communities to promote and improve their own health and wellbeing.
- 8.2 The partnership brings together key strategic funders pooling resources to deliver the holistic programme: Devon County Council, Exeter City Council, Sport England and Primary Care Networks (x4).
- 8.3 The partnership has developed into a city-wide social model of prevention which recognises that communities, and the relationships that make them, are vital to creating, improving and sustaining health and wellbeing of residents in Exeter.
- 8.4 Since the agreement of Council in July 2019 to resource Wellbeing Exeter through CIL funds and the expansion through Sport England investment, the following infrastructure now exists in the city to support individual and community wellbeing:
- Four Primary Care networks covering 17 GP practices in the city referring patients
 - 16 Community Connectors supporting individual residents to improve their wellbeing, expanded to include children and young people 11+ and families
 - 13 Community Builders covering every ward in the city, identifying social resources, stimulating activity and helping those communities to thrive and develop
 - 4 Community Physical Activity Organisers supporting individuals and communities to be more active in their everyday life
- 8.5 The following high level impact has been achieved through the programme, with further detail in the appended impact presentation:
- Over 3600 referrals to Community Connectors
 - During 2020 and continuing in to 2021, direct referrals were expanded to the Exeter Community Wellbeing (Covid) response team.
 - As of January 2021, direct referrals have expanded to Care Direct Plus (Adult Social Care) and the Community Physiotherapy team (R, D and E). Expanded Community Connector offer to young people (11 to 18 year olds) and families through new specialist delivery partners.
 - 80% engagement rate for referrals (2019)
 - In 2019, 1200 connections were made to 390 groups, organisations and services
 - Active links with over 350 community groups, organisations and services.
- 8.6 During the early months of the COVID-19, Wellbeing Exeter played a crucial role in establishing the council's community response to the pandemic through the Exeter Community Wellbeing hotline and referral programme. Wellbeing Exeter and its partner organisations brought together partners in the voluntary sector to respond to

practical support for residents needing help and signposting volunteers to mutual aid groups helping local communities.

8.7 Over 2500 residents, many in the clinically vulnerable shielded cohort, were supported to access food, pick up medicine, improve their wellbeing whilst isolated and access grant support for those on low incomes. Individuals were referred to Wellbeing Exeter for a conversation with a local Community Connector to help improve their wellbeing at a very challenging and complex time

8.8 In January 2021 the strategic funding partners agreed on a review of Wellbeing Exeter and development of a new 3 year strategy. The impact of COVID-19 on the programme, ongoing uncertainty of long term funding and the withdrawal of a key local delivery partner led to Wellbeing Exeter Steering Group establishing the review with Devon Community Foundation

8.9 The initial review highlighted eight key development themes as part of a proposed re-design of the current Wellbeing Exeter Programme, the full review is attached as Appendix A

8.10 The themes are:

- As part of COVID-19 recovery, develop work across the programme to support and encourage individuals and communities to take steps to improve their wellbeing as restrictions lift
- Growing our team of Community Connectors to ensure a universal offer across the city while further locating and embedding the Community Connector team in targeted local communities & populations
- Reengaging with primary care as the Covid-19 landscape shifts, to ensure that the Wellbeing Exeter offer remains embedded in primary care and is able to respond to emerging health and wellbeing needs.
- Expand our referral routes in to the programme to increase referrals, embedding it into other key parts of the health and social care system, ensuring the programme is available to those individuals who can most benefit and expanding the capacity of the programme to play a preventative role
- Integration and alignment with the NHS Population Health Management Programme and the emerging Local Care Partnership
- A review and redesign of the governance
- A review of how we monitor and evaluate the programme
- A review of how the programme communicates and engages internally and externally,

8.11 The core elements of the Wellbeing Exeter programme will continue to be developed:

Community Builders in each local neighbourhood listen to what residents care about and want to take action on, identify community assets, connect people, ideas and assets together and support people to act together for the good of the community.

Community Connectors coach and support individuals to identify what matters to them and how they might be able to have enriched lives within their communities to bring about improved wellbeing. A Connector might, for example, accompany someone to a community group, research suitable opportunities to link with locally, or help them get advice on debt.

Community Physical Activity Organisers support individuals to move more in their daily lives in ways that work for them and work alongside communities to develop resident-led, welcoming and long-lasting opportunities for physical activity in local neighbourhoods.

8.12 Workshops with key funding partners and delivery partners are currently underway to develop the full operational detail of the programme.

8.13 A key component of the review is the strengthening of the governance of Wellbeing Exeter. A proposal of new governance is attached as Appendix B and details a new Wellbeing Exeter Commissioning Board with member and officer representation from key strategic funding partners to ensure the ongoing success of Wellbeing Exeter and develop its future strategic direction.

8.14 Council Members will be invited to twice annual briefings where updates will be provided on the progress of Wellbeing Exeter, its ongoing impact and an opportunity for discussion with Members on how they can engage with the programme

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 The Wellbeing Exeter programme plays a crucial role in improving the wellbeing of residents and communities across the city. It also drives to narrow health inequalities, support people to better connect with their communities and help build more resilient communities.

9.2 Specifically, Wellbeing Exeter has a direct impact on key council priorities:

- Promoting active and healthy lifestyles
- Building great neighbourhoods

9.3 In addition, the programme is contributing towards the carbon neutral agenda as the asset based community development work on the ground supports people to help improve their neighbourhood. This might be through walking and cycling, looking after their local green space or identifying ways in how communities can work together to limit their carbon footprint

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 Some of the key risks highlighted include:

- Ongoing strategic commitment and resource contribution of funding partners
- The impact of COVID-19 on communities and residents and the resulting impact this may have on demand of primary care and Wellbeing Exeter referrals
- The resilience of the voluntary sector following significant periods of austerity, COVID-19 and the challenges charities and community organisations face in maintaining revenue streams to keep providing their support

- The role of primary care and the challenges faced by the sector and local GPs to continue to focus on prevention as other priorities rise. For example, the long term plan for vaccination programmes through primary care.

10.2 The Wellbeing Exeter Review has begun to address some of the challenges and present some mitigation to ensure the challenges are tackled within the context of the programme. These include:

- A new governance model and establishing a Wellbeing Exeter Commissioning Board to provide strategic support to unblock challenges and impactful risks as they arise,
- A Wellbeing Exeter oversight group that will support the management of day to day operations of the programme delivery through Devon Community Foundation. This will include a risk management plan and proactive management of challenges as they arise.
- A communications strategy and plan to ensure members, funders, stakeholders, delivery partners, communities and residents are well informed on the impact and progress of Wellbeing Exeter

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 In recommending this proposal potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act and an Equalities Impact Assessment has been included in the background papers for Member's attention.

11.5 Overall, the Wellbeing Exeter programme has a very positive impact on narrowing inequality by the nature of its asset based approach and working with strengths within both geographical but also under-represented communities.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 There are no direct carbon/environmental impacts based on the recommendations within this report

12.2 The Wellbeing Exeter programme does contribute towards the agenda indirectly through the work of Community Builders and Community Physical Activity Organisers within their local Community. These include:

- Working with communities to identify how to improve their local neighbourhood
- Encouraging and enabling residents to walk and cycle and take sustainable modes of transport.
- Working with residents to access and improve their local green space (e.g. litter picks,
- Supporting residents to engage in local consultation and engagement activities. For example, how to improve local walking and cycling infrastructure in their neighbourhood.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1 An alternative option would be to not seek to utilise CIL funding in this way but this would result in an unsustainable Wellbeing Exeter programme which would not match the Council's priorities and commitment to supporting communities to improve their health & wellbeing

13.2 These proposals have been designed as part of a review process with funding and delivery partners within Wellbeing Exeter. The improved governance, focussed strategy on targeted communities and continued expansion of the programme will aim to support those residents most impacted by COVID-19

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

- Wellbeing Exeter Strategic Review
- Wellbeing Exeter Governance Proposals
- Wellbeing Exeter Impact Presentation
- Wellbeing Exeter EQIA

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