



GREAT YARMOUTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee

Date: Monday, 03 October 2022

Time: 18:30

Venue: Council Chamber

Address: Town Hall, Hall Plain, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QF

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

You have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter to be discussed if it relates to something on your Register of Interests form. You must declare the interest and leave the room while the matter is dealt with.

You have a Personal Interest in a matter to be discussed if it affects

- your well being or financial position
- that of your family or close friends
- that of a club or society in which you have a management role
- that of another public body of which you are a member to a greater extent than others in your ward.

You must declare a personal interest but can speak and vote on the matter.

Whenever you declare an interest you must say why the interest

arises, so that it can be included in the minutes.

3 **MINUTES** **4 - 13**

The Committee is asked to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2022.

4 **FORWARD PLAN** **14 - 14**

The Committee is asked to consider the Forward Plan.

5 **PLAYGROUND & OPEN SPACE AUDIT** **15 - 29**

Report attached.

6 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET MONITORING
REPORT PERIOD 4 2022-2023** **30 - 38**

Report attached.

7 **EMPTY HOMES UPDATE** **39 - 44**

Report attached.

8 **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE** **45 - 71**

Report attached.

9 **ROUGH SLEEPING FUNDING AND SERVICE UPDATE** **72 - 76**

Report attached.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any other business as may be determined by the Chairman of the meeting as being of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

11 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

In the event of the Committee wishing to exclude the public from the meeting, the following resolution will be moved:-

"That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12(A) of the said Act."



GREAT YARMOUTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee

Minutes

Thursday, 14 July 2022 at 18:30

PRESENT: Councillor Flaxman Taylor (Chair), Councillors Wainwright, Price, Cameron, D Hammond, Smith-Clare, Martin and Jeal

Councillor Carpenter attended as a sub for Councillor Grant.

Councillor Paul Hammond attended as a substitute for Councillor Galer.

Councillor Paul Wells attended as Chairman of the Environment Committee

Also in attendance were:

Kate Blakemore (Strategic Director); Paula Boyce (Strategic Director); Dean Wilson (Neighbourhood Manager); James Dudley (Community Champions Programme Co-ordinator); Russell Heath (Resident Engagement Officer); Nick Fountain (Principal Strategic Planner); Sally Pearson (Democratic Services Officer)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Candon, Williamson, Galer and Grant.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Smith-Clare declared an interest as he runs a Community Garden.
Councillor Penny Carpenter declared an interest as she sits on the GYN Liaison Board.

3 MINUTES

The minutes were agreed subject to Councillor Price being added to the list of attendees. He was also attendance at the previous meeting.

4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee received and noted the Forward Plan. It was noted that the Right to Succeed in the Nelson Ward has started and Paula Boyce is in the process of organising a briefing for ward members and group leaders.

6 DRAFT OPEN SPACE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Principal Strategic Planner explained the Open space Needs Assessment which had been carried out to identify the open space needs of the Borough, and presented the recommendations from the assessment to the Committee.

Councillor Wainwright added that it was a very comprehensive report with a lot of strands covered but the document does not commit the Borough Council to deliver anything, it will though assist in attracting funding if necessary. He added that some play areas in the Borough are a disgrace and referred to a piece of equipment in Magdalen Ward which was closed in April for Health and Safety reasons but that no one was informed. Councillor Wainwright referred to the recommendation in the report from Magdalen Ward but that there was no mention of Magdalen Square. He added that he supported the document but with the cost of living crisis people want to visit open spaces and play areas and the Council needs to get its house in order.

Kate Blakemore agreed to take this away as an action and bring back in due course, as this was a different piece of work to the strategy. With regard to the survey of the play equipment she added that work had been completed on mapping the assets and this will be presented to the Environment Committee. The play equipment health and safety regime is part of this work and assessing what equipment to keep.

Councillor Jeal referred to equipment in Blackfriars Road which had been fenced off since March with the fence now also damaged.

Councillor Smith-Clare praised the report which will bring opportunities and added

that there needs to be accessible natural green spaces. Referring to the deficits he added that there are also resources that aren't being fully utilised and urban areas with pockets of green space which could be developed and involve the communities. He added that lot's of play equipment is not fit for purpose.

Councillor Price agreed that it was a very good and positive report and fully supported the actions suggested. He added that reported repairs needed in Claydon Ward had been completed and he had received thanks from residents, adding that good points need to be recognised as well. He added that there is lots of positive points but if things aren't being done they should be.

Councillor Martin requested that the report be sent to the Environment Committee. In praising the report she added that more accessible and inclusive equipment should be encouraged and for the disability awareness groups to be involved.

Councillor Wells advised that the Play Park review was presented to the Environment Committee and underwent a lot of scrutiny, a copy will be forwarded to Members. He added that all Members should have been contacted prior to committee with information for their specific ward.

It was clarified that Beaches are excluded from the Open space needs assessment but that other spaces are recognised which would help recreational needs.

It was discussed how off site contributions should work and it was confirmed that there will be a geographical tie up and that they would relate to the regulations on Section 106 spending which in order to meet the requirements have to be spent locally.

Councillor Hammond asked where land will be found to mitigate the deficits identified in the report. The Principal Strategic Planner advised that one element could be in larger developments providing play space amenity in the development site and also by enhancing existing sites in the Borough or reorganising existing sites.

Councillor Flaxman-Taylor echoed some of the comments and added that private stock is also in need of long term maintenance.

RESOLVED:

That the Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee approve the content & recommendations contained within the Open Space Needs Assessment for consultation.

It was agreed that inclusivity be added to the report and that the report be sent to members of the Environment Committee.

7 NORFOLK AND WAVENEY NHS INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM (ICS)

Paula Boyce presented the report which provided members with an overview of the changes that took place on 1st July 2022 moving from a Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) operating model to an Integrated Case System (ICS) governance model and the role the council plays in the new ICS at Place level.

As part of the new governance arrangement at Place level of the footprint of the borough council area, members were asked to agree to the formation of a Great

Yarmouth Health & Wellbeing Partnership and two Community Partnership areas aligned to Primary Care Network boundaries.

Councillor Wainwright advised that it was very good comprehensive report and that the workshops were really effective. Referring to the two new boards he asked where the two would be located and asked for Councillor Jade Martin to be the Labour representative on the Board which will feed in the Board of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

Paul Boyce added that they will be new entities, partnerships rather than Boards. They will not be decision making and won't hold any budget but will be important in community engagement. One will be located for Gorleston and the Southern parishes and one for Great Yarmouth and the Northern Parishes. They will be located around these geographical areas to ensure fair representation. Paula added that through the Community Hub operating model, work tackling the health and inequalities plan is being piloted.

Councillor Flaxman-Taylor added that there is a lot of work being undertaken by the Integrated Care System but this is also about grass root community work adding to the work being done as existing Councillors helping hard to reach areas and the District Council representation gives a voice.

RESOLVED:

That the Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee

Note the new arrangements for health & social care under the Norfolk & Waveney ICS, the formation of a Norfolk & Waveney Integrated Care Board (ICB), an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) and the role the borough council plays in supporting the wider ICS both at 'Place' level for Great Yarmouth and Waveney and locally within the borough of Great Yarmouth in relation to supporting the health & wellbeing of residents and communities.

Agree to the formation of the Great Yarmouth Health & Wellbeing Partnership (HWP) to be chaired by Cllr Emma Flaxman-Taylor as nominated by Council.

Agree to discontinue the three Neighbourhood Boards and form two Community Partnerships to help inform the HWP's work.

Note the proposed spend of Norfolk Public Health Covid Recovery Funding on resourcing the operation of the community hub operating model' namely the council's Community Marshals, case workers and Community Champions' Programme to support the HWP & Community Partnerships in 2022/23 with support from the HWP partners.

Request the Great Yarmouth HWP and Community Partnerships provide an annual report to Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee in relation to delivery of agreed community-focused locality priorities, including tackling health inequalities and closer integration with NHS partners, working in collaboration with partner organisation and community groups.

8 LOCALITY STRATEGY - COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS

The Neighbourhood Manager explained the report which took the learning and insight gathered from the recent Housing & Neighbourhood's convened 'Community Conversation' held on 25 April 2022, and set out a proposal for Action Plans to deliver the Locality Strategy's four priorities:

Health and Well-being
Low Educational Attainment, Skills and Aspirations
Vulnerability and Exploitation
Loneliness, Isolation and Social Exclusion.

The report also provided members with an update on the Great Yarmouth Community Investment Fund (GYCIF) 2021/22 managed on behalf of the borough council by the Norfolk Community Foundation as it moves into Year 2 of the community grant-giving fund for 2022/23.

The Neighbourhood Manager added that all of the organisations funded in 2021/22 are on course to fulfil the outcomes of their plans. The application process will start early next week for the Year 2 Community Grant programme with the final panel meeting held by Monday 19th September.

RESOLVED:

That the Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee:

Agrees the 'Tackling Health Inequalities' Action Plan as set out in Appendix 1.

Notes the outcomes to date for the Great Yarmouth Community Investment Fund 2021/22.

Agrees to financially support Year 2 of the Great Yarmouth Community Investment Fund managed by the Norfolk Community Foundation.

9 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS PROGRAMME

Councillor Flaxman-Taylor congratulated all the work carried out by the Community Champions Programme and their recent award.

The Community Champions Programme Co-ordinator gave a presentation on the Community Champions' Programme in operation in the borough and its embedded partnership work with other health and VCSE partners which now sustains it. The report provided Members with an overview of the inventions undertaken to date, working closely with Norfolk Public Health, Norfolk County Council, Norfolk & Waveney CCG colleagues at place level, and the Great Yarmouth & Northern Villages and Gorleston & Southern Parishes Primary Care Networks.

Councillor Wainwright praised the report and congratulated the work of the Community Champions programme and the recent award. Referring to the Community Food Stores and Foodbanks Councillor Wainwright supported these but commented that the cost of living crisis would mean more would be needed and that it

is a disgrace that people have to rely on support from these due to abysmal wages. He added that there had been excellent work on the vaccination programme but that people should have a decent living wage and not be reliant on the community food stores.

Councillor Smith-Clare agreed with the Community Champions Programme Co-ordinator that the Community Food Stores are not hand-outs but hand ups and added that there is not a part of the community that is not being affected by strangling poverty. He added that Community Champions are in some cases experiencing some poverty themselves but are still helping others to survive. He added that the current situation won't just go away and the end of poverty needs to be championed and that this is a sticking plaster.

Councillor Price added that he understood the comments made but didn't agree with the way they were said. He added that the Community Champions is a fantastic scheme and goes a long way to address the problems experienced in Great Yarmouth and the world today. He added that all are affected by the cost of living crisis. He explained that he had been appointed to the MESH Committee and was very impressed by those who attend those meetings and look after the community and that so many businesses are contributing to stock for the community foodstores. He added that everyone in Great Yarmouth is pulling together where possible to help others are proud to help others not as fortunate.

Councillor Jeal added that the foodbanks are fantastic but that by Christmas the situation would be a great deal worse. He added that more help is needed from the Government to help with electricity and gas. He also referred to the excellent work undertaken in Peggotty Road and surrounding area.

Councillor Martin said she was proud to be associated with the food banks but that they are another element of failure, the cost of living crisis is an excuse and there had been years to sort things out. She added that she was proud of the community and the community champions and pleased that the project is continuing.

Councillor Flaxman-Taylor gave thanks for the presentation highlighting the work undertaken. She added that she had received good feedback from a visit by the Community Champions to Ormiston Venture Academy and suggested it would be good to also visit other high schools. She added that the current situation is disappointing but as a Council would carry on together to help as many residents of the Borough as possible.

It was noted that the report should read as recommendation to the Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee and not Policy and Resources Committee as stated.

RESOLVED:

That the Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee resolves to:

Note the successes and continued work of the Community Champions' Programme in the Borough of Great Yarmouth.

Agree to continue with the Community Champions' Programme to actively engage with all sectors of the community.

10 FINAL HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT OUTTURN 2021-22

The Finance Director explained the report which was the final budget monitoring report for the 2021/22 financial year and the position that will be used to inform the production of the statutory accounts. The report and appendices provided the detail of the outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account plus the capital programme in relation to the housing stock.

The outturn position showed a surplus of £824,000 compared to the originally budgeted deficit of £2.784 million, resulting in a net underspend of £3.4million. The main reason for the underspend was largely due to a lower amount being required to fund the capital programme in the year from revenue, due to slippage in the capital projects, totalling £1.4m underspend.

In addition, there had been an increase in the rent income in the year largely due to reduced right to buy sales in the current and prior years compared to the level assumed when the budget was set, thereby delivering additional income of £903,000 in the year.

The impact of the reduced borrowing in the year had also resulted in an underspend of £361,000 in the year.

The Finance Director explained that Section 3 of the report outlined the outturn position on the capital programme. Where programmed work had not been completed in the year, the remaining project budgets had been carried forward to 2022/23. Whilst the previous update to the capital programme assumed total spend of just over £10 million, the outturn position was just under £8m.

The updated capital programme was included in the report at appendix D and as part of approving the updated programme as outlined at section 4.2, Members were asked to approve the addition of £125,000 to the Housing transformation project budget to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to deliver this project.

The report also commented on the right to buys completed in the year which was 18, which whilst it was double that for last year, is still lower than the level before 2020/21.

Overall, the Housing revenue account had delivered a surplus for the year of £824,000 which means the HRA reserve to be carried forward into 2022/23 was just under £9.4million.

Councillor Paul Hammond queried the figure in paragraph 3.6 of the report and it was clarified that this should read as £2.7m.

Councillor Wainwright referred to the massive underspend while the housing stock was getting in a worse state and repairs not being carried out. The Strategic Director advised that the Asset Management Strategy would be reported back to Committee in September.

RESOLVED:

That the Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee recommend to Council the following:

The outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account for 2021/22 as included in the report and appendices

The updated 2022/23 HRA revenue and expenditure budget as detailed at Appendix C

The updated 2022/23 HRA capital programme and associated financing of the as detailed within the report and at Appendix D.

11 ROUGH SLEEPING ACCOMODATION PLACEMENT POLICY

Kate Blakemore, Strategic Director, presented the report which sought approval of a new placement policy which set out how the Council will use homes provided specifically to meet the needs of rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping.

Councillor Jeal asked if it could be ensured that whoever is placed in the accommodation does not end up in subsidy due to the rent being too high and that the charge would not be more than the government guidelines adding that the aim is to help people not burden them with more debt. The Strategic Director advised that she will check and circulate information to members via email.

Councillor Martin asked for it to be ensure that the rent is not higher than the housing allowance and for it to be kept in line with this to prevent debt.

Councillor Smith-Clare asked for the report back to Committee to consider changes in perception in rough sleeping and requested the number of people sleeping in cars or back of vans etc. The Strategic Director agreed to confirm this number with the Rough Sleeper Team and report back to Members via email.

Councillor Flaxman-Taylor added that it is also important to have eyes and ears for those who may be missed and link where possible with the Community Champions and referred to a comment made by Councillor Myers who raised that Community Partners could work with people who are placed in accommodation. Councillor Flaxman-Taylor will raise this with Paula Boyce, Strategic Director to ensure that they have all the help and advice that they need.

Kate Blakemore advised that part of the funding package included revenue funding to provide support to those living in that accommodation. This will be a stepping stone with wrap around support to help them secure and maintain a tenancy moving forward.

Councillor Jeal added that there are some rough sleepers who do not want to live in accommodation and help should be given to them even if they do not want to be housed.

RESOLVED:

That Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee Adopt the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme Placement Policy

12 COMMUNITY HOUSING FUND POLICY

The Enabling and Empty Homes Officer presented the report which provided members with an update on the Community Housing Fund and the Community Land Trust established in the Borough.

RESOLVED:

That Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee:

Note the contents of the report.

Approve the provision of a “working grant” to existing and new Community Led Housing Organisations as per the Community Housing Fund Policy to support the development of the organisations and housing projects.

Approve the amendment to the CLH Loan to allow for properties already holding planning permission or the acquisition of buildings to be eligible for a loan.

13 COUNCIL HOUSING COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE - SIX MONTHLY UPDATE JUNE 2022

The Resident Engagement Officer explained the report which provided the six monthly position for the Council’s compliance and performance in relation to its housing stock for the 2021/22 financial year and the Council’s compliance against each of the Consumer Standards and the Rent standard.

Councillor Wainwright expressed concern at the underspend in the HRA when looking at the graph in paragraph 2.1 which showed that the quality of accommodation was not compliant in one area in June 2022 and this was also the case in November 2021. He added that he hoped that the Council could get on top of this and not have any non compliance.

The Strategic Director added that this had been recognised and additional resources had been brought in with an action plan which would be presented to committee in September.

Councillor Smith-Clare referred to the number of complaints, the highest being staff behaviour and asked what this related to. The Resident Engagement Officer advised that the reason for the complaints can be how the processes have been interpreted, the category has a broad meaning and more detail will be provided to members.

Councillor Jeal referred to the Selective Licensing Scheme and that Members are contacted by Landlords regarding standards of Council accommodation and it would be good to say that the Council’s housing stock had been improved.

Councillor Price added that contractors had not been able to go to properties to do repairs due to Covid, and that everyone wants to see the housing stock improve. He suggested that local contractors could be used to get works completed and asked for reassurance of a timescale for works to be caught up. The Strategic Director advised that the Council has a procurement strategy in place to follow and it is being investigated how works could be sub contracted to further contractors. This will be part of the Asset Strategy which will be presented to Committee again in September.

The approach being taken is to prioritise works by risk with the resources available.

RESOLVED:

That the committee note the contents of the report and the work in progress to address areas of poor performance.

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Wainwright advised that it was Anti Social Awareness Week next week and the need to ensure that the Police have the correct codes to access GYBC properties.

The meeting ended at: TBC

| Housing and Neighbourhoods | | | ELT Date | Pre Meet Date | Agenda Published | Committee Date |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 22-113 | Empty Homes Update | Housing Director | 24/8/22 | 5/9/2022 | 8/9/2022 | 15/09/22 |
| 22-168 | Children's Play Action Plan Update | Head of Property and Asset Management | 7/9/2022 | 5/9/2022 | 8/9/2022 | 15/09/22 |
| 22-156 | Rough Sleeping Update | Housing Director | 24/08/22 | 5/9/2022 | 8/9/2022 | 15/09/22 |
| 22-186 | Refurbishment of Gorleston Clifftops Tennis Courts | Strategic Director (KB) | 07/09/22 | 05/09/22 | 08/09/22 | 15/09/22 |
| | Active GY Framework update | Andy Oakley (Active Norfolk) | | 05/09/22 | 08/09/22 | 15/09/22 |
| 22-039 | Council Home Compliance and Performance - Update Report 2022/23(October) | Director of Housing Assets | 26/10/22 | 2/11/2022 | 3/11/2022 | 10/11/2022 |
| 22-119 | Strategic Review of Sheltered Housing Assets | Director of Housing Assets | 26/10/22 | 2/11/2022 | 3/11/2022 | 10/11/2022 |
| 22-088 | Asset Management Strategy | Director of Housing Assets | 26/10/22 | 2/11/2022 | 3/11/2022 | 10/11/2022 |
| 22-169 | options for HRA rent increases in 2023/24 | Director of Housing Assets & Income service Managr | 26/10/22 | 2/11/2022 | 3/11/2022 | 10/11/2022 |
| 22-173 | Open Space Needs Assessment | Principal Strategic Planner | 26/10/22 | 2/11/2022 | 3/11/2022 | 10/11/2022 |
| 22-174 | Outdoor Sports & Playing Pitch Strategy | Principal Strategic Planner | 26/10/22 | 2/11/2022 | 3/11/2022 | 10/11/2022 |
| 22-179 | DFG and Adaptations Review | Housing Director | 19/10/22 | 2/11/2022 | 3/11/2022 | 10/11/2022 |
| 22-154 | Supported Housing and HRA | Housing Director | 19/10/22 | 2/11/2022 | 3/11/2022 | 10/11/2022 |
| 21-142 | Middlegate Regeneration Scheme | Housing Director | 11/1/2023 | 17/01/23 | 19/01/23 | 26/01/22 |
| 22-157 | Option appraisal for Repairs and Maintenance service | Director of Housing Assets | 11/1/2023 | 17/01/23 | 19/01/23 | 26/01/22 |
| 22-159 | Estate Services and Caretaking Review | Director of Housing Assets | 11/1/2023 | 17/01/23 | 19/01/23 | 26/01/22 |
| 21-181 | Stock Condition Survey Results | Director of Housing Assets | 1/3/2023 | 7/3/2023 | 9/3/2023 | 16/03/23 |
| 22-162 | Housing Strategy | Strategic Director (KB) | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| 22-163 | Preventing Homelessness Strategy | Housing Director | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| 22-164 | Development Standard- date to be confirmed. | Housing Director | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| 22-158 | Gapton Hall Feasibility Study | Housing Director | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| 22-160 | STAR Survey – January H&NC. | Director of Housing Assets | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| 22-161 | Control Centre review | Housing Director | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| 22-165 | Sustainable Warmth Update – June. | Housing Director | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| 21-181 | Selective Licensing Update and Next Steps | Head of Environmental Services | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |
| 21-183 | GYN Maintenance of Housing Stock (including complaints handling and repairs | Head of Property and Asset Management | TBC | TBC | TBC | TBC |

Subject – Playground and Open Space Audit - Update
Report to – Executive Leadership Team – 7 Sept 2022
Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee – 12 Sept 2022
Report by: Head of Property & Asset Management



Subject Matter:

Following an audit of Play and Open Space which reported to the Environment Committee in February 2022 an action plan was agreed and implemented covering the next steps in this review.

This report updated the action plan and reports back on findings in relation to the high priority 1-5 year life expectancy play equipment as required by the action plan.

Recommendations:

That the Committee:

- **Notes the work undertaken to date in the analysis of sites and identification of high priority sites**
- **Approves the continued investigations for redesign and refurbishment of – the attached Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 list of sites**
- **Continue to address the priority list of end of life equipment 1-5 years.**
- **Review current revenue budget allocation for play and open space to include GYNorse allocation through Public Works funding to ensure best utilisation of budget.**
- **Capital budget allocation for future years subject to funding being available to be considered through individual business case development on a site by site basis.**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 An Audit commenced in May 2021 to comprehensively review the need, overall provision, quality and location of play areas and open spaces around the Borough.

1.2 Collaborating with other departments and stakeholders the audit collated and examined existing records and information to form a concise baseline database of play areas and open spaces. Sites were also surveyed, photographed, mapped and scored through a set of criteria. Annual playground inspection information was analysed to review condition of the play equipment. Where possible ongoing maintenance costs were identified in relation to inspections, equipment and grounds maintenance.

1.3 The final report was presented in February 2022 including information presented in ward report packs in the appendices circulated to the Ward Councillors for review.

1.4 Initially the report was presented to the Environmental Committee meeting in February 2022, but subsequently the Play and Open Spaces future reports were, in

line with Constitution, transferred and a copy of the original report circulated to members of the Housing and Neighbourhood Committee for information.

1.5 At the meeting in February the Environmental Committee reviewed and adopted the following recommendations from the report: -

- Note the information being consolidated on Concerto.
- Agree the quantity and quality data provided in relation to play and open spaces
- Adopt the action plan which identifies next steps.
- Identify funding to support the extension of the Technical Officer resource to deliver the action plan milestones.

A part time position of Technical Officer was extended until March 2023 to undertake the next stage of work in line with the action plan.

2. PLAY AREA AND OPEN SPACE AUDIT FINDINGS

2.1 The conclusion of the play area and open space audit summarised the total number of sites as the following: -

| Type of Space | Definition | Total No. Sites |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Play Space | Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters | 97 |
| Informal Amenity Greenspace | Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. | 200 |
| Parks and Gardens | Accessible, high quality, tend to be formally planned out, opportunities for informal recreation and community events. | 21 |
| Allotments | Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion. | 24 |
| Accessible Natural Green Space | Areas with a predominant feeling of 'naturalness' important for wildlife conservation, biodiversity, and environmental education and awareness, which are accessible to the public. | 28 |

2.2 The audit identified that there are 97 play areas spread over the 17 Wards and 21 Parishes of the Borough. In total **93** of these are considered as playground sites and are covered by regular play area inspections. The 4 sites which are not officially classed as playgrounds but were included in the audit are, the Gorleston splash park, Marine Parade Putting Green, the closed Jellicoe Road Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and Yarmouth seafront basketball court. An overall breakdown of play area land ownership is below:



2.3 All of the 93 play areas are currently inspected by GYBC and are maintained through the Borough and Parish Councils depending upon equipment ownership. All 93 sites have some GYBC owned equipment with 5 sites identified as having some additional equipment which is owned by the respective Parish Council.

The table below is a brief total summary of types of play provision across the Borough: -

| Type of Play Provision | Total Sites |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Play Areas with play equipment | 84 |
| MUGA Areas | 19 |
| ZIP Wire/ Cable Runway | 3 |
| Skate Park | 10 |
| Climbing Wall | 3 |
| Outdoor Gym | 5 |
| Activity Trail | 14 |
| Teenage Shelter/ Perch Seat | 12 |
| Splash Pad | 1 |
| Putting Green | 1 |
| Basketball Courts | 2 |
| Separate Practice Hoop/Goal | 7 |
| Inclusive Play Provision | 18 |

(Ref : Appendix 8.in February Play Area Audit provides a full breakdown of the sites and of types of provision including Play equipment, Practice Hoop/ Goal, MUGA, Skate Park etc for each ward.)

2.4 From this information **84** sites are identified as being a playground with play equipment provision such as swings, slides, multi-play etc. A total of 18 of the sites have some inclusive play provision. All the play areas have some space for natural play either around the equipment or nearby with spaces differing in relation to surface materials and surroundings.

2.5 The Property and Assets Team, manages the council repairs and maintenance of the Play Areas and maintenance on council owned and Parish equipment when directed. GY Norse is employed to do operational monthly inspections of play areas and carries out responsive repairs and maintenance. Environmental Services undertake weekly inspections on the condition of the play equipment and other aspects which are uploaded on to the Play Inspection Company site. An Annual Inspection is carried out by an external company providing a report on life expectancy of equipment and further detail of risks.

3. Current position

3.1 The following is an update on the Action Plan previously agreed at the Environment Committee in February 2022:

| Issues Identified | Actions to Deliver required Outcomes | Progress to Date |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Register locations | Record all playgrounds and areas of open space on the borough Asset Management system ensuring information is joined up, accurate, up to date and accessible for the future | <p>All play areas and open spaces identified as being GYBC owned sites are now logged on the Concerto Property and Assets Database.</p> <p>Further work is needed to include any new and updated information on to the Norfolk Mapping Browser.</p> |
| S106 Funding | <p>Review S106 funding release.</p> <p>Implement a process to ensure that all relevant parties are involved in the decision concerning the utilisation of s106 funding prior to looking for budget approval.</p> <p>A review of capacity to provide administration and consultation should be included.</p> | Strategic Planning have identified options for updating the process, these are under consideration and a draft proposal is pending further approval. |
| Identify | <p>With reference to the Audit identify initial locations, options and opportunities for decision. Initially to profile equipment to be life expired within 5 years.</p> <p>Review to include options for retain/ decommission / change of use/ protect / consultation with stakeholder about future ownership.</p> | <p>From the list of 95 play area sites a series of filtering has been adopted to identify which sites have high, medium and low priority based on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Equipment Life Expectancy report and inspection detail from the Annual Inspection, prioritising sites with equipment with life expectancy of 5 years or less. • Scoring carried out during the visits for Play Area Audit based on a set of criteria. • Recommendations will include: Repairs and Maintenance, Improvement, Redesign, Review, Remove, No Change, Replace <p>The table at Appendix 1 and 2 identifies the locations and options.</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Open Space Needs Assessment</p> | <p>The Strategic Planning Team will lead in preparing an open space needs assessment using the information collected from the attached most recent audit to determine the needs at each ward level. This will include some recommendations for specific open spaces and should help to prioritise spending. This will sit alongside the Play Pitch Strategy to provide a much more comprehensive assessment of open space needs across the Borough.</p> | <p>Consultation is currently in progress.</p> <p>The Open Space Needs Assessment will be presented at Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee in November for adoption (i.e. following consideration of consultation responses).</p> |
| <p>Open Space Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)</p> | <p>The Strategic Planning Team is in the process of preparing a SPD to support officers, applicants and developers to meet the new open space requirements. This will include further guidance for off-site provision through S106.</p> | <p>Consultation is currently in progress.</p> <p>The Open Space SPD is a planning document being prepared in consultation with the Local Plan Working Party and will be subject to consideration by the Policy & Resources Committee for a final draft consultation in November. Adoption is anticipated in January 2023.</p> |
| <p>Consultation</p> | <p>Undertake based on areas identified within this action plan.</p> <p>Undertake based on third party funding available from stakeholders.</p> <p>All consultation to include consideration of Inclusive Play – establish a Disabled users consultation focus group.</p> | <p>Resources for consultation has been limited with no capacity within the Neighbourhoods team for this work.</p> <p>Property and Assets has approached Parish Councils and Ward Councillors for comment on specific locations identified within the 5 year plan.</p> <p>Community Champion Programme Co-Ordinator is supporting consultation in relation to Inclusive Play through links with Vision Norfolk, Centre 81, Sunbeams Play and Shine. Further feedback from John Grant School is also anticipated.</p> <p>Public consultation will be carried out prior to any proposals identified on the 5 year plan of works.</p> |
| <p>Evaluation</p> | <p>Review areas identified within the initial 5-year action plan in relation to both consultation</p> | <p>Autumn 2022 – Committee consideration</p> |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| | <p>results and funding opportunities.</p> <p>Review sites on an individual basis – one size doesn't fit all.</p> | |
| Budgeting and ongoing development | <p>Use evaluation to identify budget challenges and identify alternative delivery/ownership models to improve facilities.</p> <p>Consider income generation linked to any open space locations - rent/ lease space, employment/ training opportunities eg. grow sustainable resources – willow crops.</p> | Autumn 2022 - Committee Consideration |
| Ownership and management | <p>Determine from consultation where opportunities for alternative ownership and management options exist.</p> <p>Open discussions with Parishes and other organisation to identify opportunities for future ownership.</p> | <p>Some initial discussions have taken place but ability to financial support going forward is challenging.</p> <p>Some alternative options identified with Housing providers – These are pending further resident consultation on the specific site. Potential for financial contributions for this area.</p> <p>Discussions to continue.</p> |

4. Progress to Date

4.1 Repairs and Maintenance:-

Further to the progress of the Action Plan there have also been some budget and capacity challenges in carrying out repairs and maintenance of the 93 play areas this year. The existing budget of £15,000 is partially utilised for the fee to carry out the annual inspection costing £5,328. Budget constraints and rising costs for purchasing replacement equipment parts is becoming increasingly challenging.

The full-time Playground Engineer who routinely maintains all the play areas also carries out an operational inspection every month of all the 93 play area sites. This equates to one week a month carrying out inspections.

A loss of officer resource within GYN has led to a communication breakdown with equipment parts not being ordered or requested in a timely manner. Extra support from the property and assets team to source parts has been necessary to deal with emerging issues: This has now been formally raised with GYN and work is now in progress to try and resolve this matter.

Cyclical painting works including equipment, benches and bins will be addressed through the 2nd half of 2022/23.

4.2 Signage

The current play area signage is being updated, temporary signage to update contact information and usage is being added to all sites. This information will include a QR code to link to the Love Clean Streets App and also to the GYBC website.

4.3 Equipment for Removal

Some equipment has required removal for safety reasons, relevant stakeholders are always notified of this position ahead of equipment being removed. Over the last 6 months this has equated to the following areas:

7 pieces of Equipment detailed below have initially been removed with further equipment pending investigation:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Blackfriars West | Nelson | Junior Multiplay and Stand up Seesaw (further piece of spring equipment damaged and been removed) |
| Burnet Road | Bradwell | Removed Spring Crazy Daisy |
| Hemsby Playing Field | East Flegg | Removed Spring Horse |
| Hawthorn Road | Claydon | Rocking Koala (2 x further equipment scheduled for repair) |
| Buttercup Drive | Bradwell | Freestanding Slide |
| Ferrier Road | Central and Northgate | Spinning Pole |

4.4 Housing Sites Update - Middlegate Estate

Some of the Middlegate Estate play area improvements are coming to completion. 5 out of the 11 areas have now been consolidated into 4 areas. Removal of the MUGA area to provide a communal garden area. A further 6 sites remain in need of review.

5. Next Steps

5.1 The review of sites has identified a number of play areas for consideration over the initial 5-year programme, as mentioned above these are listed in full on appendix 1 however the table below identifies the breakdown in total across all 97 sites in the high, medium and low categories:

| Priority | Redesign | R&M | Review (possible remove/improve/redesign) | Improved | Other |
|----------|----------|-----|---|----------|-------|
| High | 13 | 17 | 11 | | |
| Medium | 2 | 20 | 5 | | |
| Low | 0 | 16 | 5 | | |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| | 15 | 53 | 21 | 5 | 3 |

5.2 As can be seen from the above table there are a total of 53 play areas requiring some level of repairs and maintenance over the coming years. This work ranges from painting of equipment, benches etc to cleaning of dog grids, replacement of individual pieces of equipment, signage and surface repair. It is recommended that these works formulate an agreed plan and are considered as part of the 2023/24 budget review.

5.3 For the purposes of this report the focus remains on the high priority play areas and the options, opportunities there are as these fall within the 5 year programme period. This report should be considered together with the Open Space Audit to fully review both the use of space, type of facilities and future need.

6 Consultation: -

6.1 Parishes with play areas identified within the 5-year programme have been contacted for their feedback. These parishes include: -

Bradwell, Hemsby, Caister, Rollesby, Ormesby St Margaret with Scratby, Hopton, Martham, Fritton and Belton.

Hemsby, Fritton, Hopton and Belton have supplied a range of information from including survey results for some areas.

Martham are currently carrying out some ongoing consultation with their Play Park Improvements Group and will forward their findings when available.

6.2 Disabled Groups

Community Champion Programme Co-Ordinator is supporting consultation with Disabled users' groups through existing links with a range of organisations including: Vision Norfolk, Centre 81, Sunbeams Play and Shine. Further feedback from schools will be sort following the summer holidays.

Summary of findings:

| Location | Feedback |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Beacon Park, Woodfarm Lane Site | Very happy with the location and its accessibility, not fenced off so easy for wheelchair access, wide range on offer, families with multi age children can attend. Some issues with vandalism and maintenance. |
| Pirateship, Gorleston Cliffs | can be difficult to access with wheelchairs because of gates, no equipment that children with wheelchairs can use. |
| Hopton | Lots of equipment very spread-out, liking the new zip wire for the visually impaired child and the tactile climbing walls. |
| Southtown Common | We had two residents discuss the common, one 18+ wheelchair user was very positive as over the summer he is able to go over and enjoy the cricket. Another resident stated he found the site unfriendly due to bottles smashed and litter. |

A general comment from Vision Norfolk identified –
 “Parks are used but find a lot of the equipment not very accessible as there are usually a lot of the metal climbing frames with big gaps and no distinguishing markers. The older parks with the older equipment are better as they have roundabouts, swings and handrails on their climbing structure with a lot of them also having additional activities on their sides.”

Throughout the conversations, the main themes that were discussed included the need for wider entrances for wheelchairs, more toilet / changing facilities, more

equipment for wheelchair users including swings and roundabouts and brighter colours for visually impaired children.

6.3 Further consultation work including disabled users will be an ongoing priority throughout the improvement process to ensure future play area provision have improved inclusivity within the Borough.

7. Projects Currently Under Consideration.

7.1 Pilot Playground Redesign Project – Blackfriars West

To begin formulating the level of funding for any redevelopment, focus has been made on the priority sites. The Blackfriars West Play Area has been identified as a site for considerations and potential design options sought with playground companies. Four playground companies have been approached to provide design proposals based on a range of funding budgets - £50,000, £100,000 and £150,000.

Companies interested in providing these potential designs free of charge include Playdale, Sutcliffes, Wicksteed and HAGS with designs being anticipated during September. These companies have been selected due to having a UK base and links to UK manufacturing, all work to reduce the environmental impact of transporting goods and decrease the waiting time for parts and delivery.

The Blackfriars West location is also suitable for disabled access having disabled parking bays, wide dog grids and a flat level surface. The two sets of swings on the site are in good condition and are to be retained within any potential new design. Self-closing gates are to be introduced to the site due to safety concerns of location to road and car park.

Following the design proposals being submitted a meeting with Nelson Ward Councillors will be arranged to discuss the next stages for consultation, potential funding opportunities and next steps before bringing the proposal back to Housing and Neighbourhoods for consideration.

7.2 Bradwell Adizone

We have approached the Great Outdoor Gym Company who were the suppliers of the equipment for the Adizone area 10 years ago for options to improve this area. Awaiting costs and design options.

7.3 Gorleston Cliffs Play area and Mia Lucy Trim Trail

Options for replacement parts for the Multiplay Equipment are being investigated and also for the small boat equipment in the sand pit area. This equipment originally came from America as a package of equipment. Alternative options for replacing equipment are to be investigated as part of the Seafront Masterplan.

7.4 The Audit identified how much is currently spent on maintaining the existing open spaces and what funding options are available. There is S106 and S111 funding of variable totals available – these are often restricted to locations, time and have to follow S106 agreement terms. Some agreements may allow for funds for future maintenance. The Strategic Planning Team currently manages these agreements.

8. Financial and Risk

- 8.1 Extensive work continues to be undertaken in ensuring all play areas are safe for use on occasion this does require the complete removal of equipment. Should access to equipment be restricted due to replacement parts communication processes are in place to ensure these periods are minimised as much as possible.
- 8.2 Future funding of the Playgrounds both in terms of revenue and capital will be challenging. The number of play areas has grown significantly over time and equipment is now widely more than 20 years old. The Open Space Audit should be used in conjunction with this report to ensure facilities are provided as needed and in appropriate locations to provide appropriate future use.
- 8.3 Some funding opportunities exist through the use of S106 and S111 contributions, these options may not be available in all locations and will need further consideration in the future.
- 8.4 Funding of ongoing maintenance of open space and play facilities to be considered in future budget reviews.

9. Conclusion

- 9.1 The audit reported to Environmental Committee in February 2022 has assisted in the formulation of this report, enabled the ability to identify the priority sites and clearly identified the general repairs and maintenance requirements going forward.
- 9.2 Funding for redevelopment and redesign of sites will require consideration as part of the Capital Programme on a site-by-site basis. Additional funding opportunities will need to be investigated to assist with future provision and these could include business advertising or community sponsorship of some areas. Community groups and Parish Councils could also be encouraged to apply for funding to support improvements of their specific open spaces.
- 9.2 Work is already underway to understand the range of redevelopment achievable through Playground Companies, the level of funding required and the options available which will include more non-mechanical play and the addition of increased inclusive equipment.
- 9.3 Through the design process for the Blackfriars site there will be a greater understanding of the range of funding required and what level of redevelopment / redesign can be achieved. Each site will still require individual consideration and engagement to consider any specific challenges and assess needs requirements.

| Area for consideration Comment | Comment |
|--|---|
| Monitoring Officer Consultation | |
| Section 151 Officer Consultation | |
| Existing Council Policies See background papers | Annual, quarterly and weekly inspection documents https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/blog/creating-urban-nature-play-spaces/ https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2021/feb/25/set-children-free-are-playgrounds-a-form-of-incarceration https://www.tgogc.com/our-history https://www.espplay.co.uk/the-history-of-playgrounds/ |
| Financial Implications - within existing budgets | Considered and included |
| Legal Implications (including human rights) | Considered and included |
| Risk Implications | Yes |
| Equality Issues/EQIA assessment | Yes |
| Details contained in strategy | |
| Crime & Disorder | Yes |
| Every Child Matters | Yes |

Appendix 1 – 17 Sites requiring repairs and maintenance over the 5-year period.

| Site | Ward | Parish | Propose | Action / Progress |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Playground Pier Plain (Housing) | St. Andrews | Gorleston | R&M | Investigating options for replacing embankment slide steps. Further review of equipment and site repairs. |
| Playground, Skate & MUGA Playing Field Mill Lane | Bradwell North | Bradwell | R&M | MUGA – Line Markings have been refreshed. Backboards and Hoops scheduled for installation. Overhead Rotator scheduled for repair. |
| Playground Marine Parade Gorleston Cliffs | Gorleston | Gorleston | R&M | Options for replacement parts for the Multiplay Equipment and small boat equipment in the sand pit area are currently being investigated. |
| Playground Magdalen Square | Magdalen | Gorleston | R&M | Piece of equipment being investigated in options for replacement. Infant multiplay rope ladder scheduled for repair. Site suffered from vandalism in April. |
| Playground Fritton New Road | Lothingland | Fritton | R&M/ IMPROVE | 2 pieces of equipment subject to review with further improvements to equipment and dog grid. Parish and residents would like to improve whole area with possible additional equipment for children with special needs if in line with Government legislation. |
| Playground Lichfield Road | Southtown and Cobholm | Southtown and | Playground Lichfield Road | 1 piece of equipment scheduled for repair. 3 pieces of equipment to be reviewed further. |
| Playground Ferrier Road | Central and Northgate | Yarmouth | R&M | Low score in quality. 1 piece of end of life equipment has been removed. Improvements to benches and surfaces required. |
| Playground Filby Playing Field | Fleggburgh | FILBY | R&M | 3 pieces of equipment subject to review with further improvements to equipment. |
| Playground Isaacs Road (Crittens Road) | Southtown and Cobholm | Southtown and Cobholm | R&M | 1 piece of equipment subject to review and further repairs to equipment, signage and dog grids. |
| Basketball Court Marine Parade Great Yarmouth | Central and Northgate | Yarmouth | R&M | Subject to GY Seafront Masterplan and consultation on Open Space Needs Assessment. Site scored low in quality. |

| | | | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------------|-----|--|
| Skatepark Southtown Common Recreation Ground Suffolk Road | Claydon | Southtown and Cobholm | R&M | Low score in quality assessment. MUGA and Skateboard area require repairs. |
| Skate and MUGA Martham Playing Field | West Flegg | Martham | R&M | Included in ongoing consultation work carried out by Play Park Improvements Group - PARISH/Martham Coronation Recreation Ground (MCRG) Charity |
| MUGA Marine Parade Gorleston Cliffs | Gorleston | Gorleston | R&M | Possible review under the Gorleston Seafront Masterplan. Improvement required to access, fencing and line markings. |
| Playground St Georges Park | Nelson | Yarmouth | R&M | 3 pieces of equipment to be reviewed. |
| Playground Rollesby Playing Field | West Flegg | Rollesby | R&M | 5 pieces of equipment to be reviewed. |
| Playground Beatty Close | Yarmouth North | Yarmouth | R&M | 3 pieces of equipment to be reviewed. |
| Playground Gorleston Recreation Ground | St. Andrews | Gorleston | R&M | 2 pieces of equipment to be reviewed. |

Appendix 2 – 13 Areas proposed for redesign over the 5-year period.

| Site | Ward | Parish | Propose | Action / Progress |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Playground Blackfriars West | Nelson | Yarmouth | REDESIGN | 6 out of 8 pieces of equipment coming to end of 1-5 years life expectancy. 3 pieces have been removed due to condition leaving minimal equipment remaining in use. Four companies are currently drawing up design proposals for this site and are due for review September 2022 |
| Mia Lucy Trim Trail Marine Parade Gorleston Cliffs | Gorleston | Gorleston | REDESIGN | 7 out of 16 pieces of equipment have estimated 1-3 Years life expectancy. This equipment originally came from America as a package of equipment. Alternative options for replacing equipment are to be investigated as part of the Seafront Masterplan |
| Playground Adizone Playing Field Mill Lane | Bradwell North | Bradwell | Redesign/ Refurbish | 8 out of 15 pieces of equipment have estimated 1-5 years life expectancy. Site meeting with original supplier of equipment and awaiting costs and design options to adapt and improve site. |
| Playground Townshend Close (North) (Housing) | Nelson | Yarmouth | REDESIGN | Multiplay has estimated 1-3 Years life expectancy and site scored low in quality scoring. |
| Playground Orford Close (South) (Housing) | Nelson | Yarmouth | REDESIGN | Some of the Middlegate Estate play area improvements are coming to completion. 5 out of the 11 areas have now been consolidated into 4 areas. Removal of the MUGA area to provide a communal garden area. A further 6 sites need review for improvement some scoring low in quality |
| Playground Sidney Close (Housing) | Nelson | Yarmouth | REDESIGN | |
| Playground Recreation Ground Burnet Road | Bradwell South and Hopton | Bradwell | REDESIGN | 2 out of 9 pieces of equipment at end of life. 1 piece has been removed in 12 month category. 1 further piece to be reviewed on options. Site scored low in quality scoring. |
| Playground Southtown Common Recreation Ground Suffolk Road | Claydon | Southtown & Cobholm | REDESIGN | Roundabout scheduled for repair. 4 out of 8 pieces of equipment have estimated 1-5 years life expectancy and site scored low in quality scoring. |

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------|------------------------|--|
| Playground Fisher Avenue | Yarmouth North | Yarmouth | REDESIGN | 5 out of the 15 pieces of equipment have estimated 1-5 years life expectancy. Site scored low in quality scoring. |
| Playground Recreation Ground Diana Way | Caister North | Caister | REDESIGN/ REFURBISH | 3 out of 9 pieces of equipment have estimated 1-5 years life expectancy. Site has equipment of 20 years old requiring review. Some funding has been awarded that will improve the play area, skatepark and multiplay with further enhancements to the open space. |
| Hemsby Playing Field (Waters Lane) | East Flegg | Hemsby | REDESIGN | 3 out of 12 pieces of play equipment have estimated 1-5 years life expectancy. The Parish Council would like to modernise the tennis courts – fencing and resurfacing. Need to raise 100K through grant. Feedback from Village Survey – Improving Community Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improvements to playing field/ childrens area – 46.8% responded that not enough activities for young people. Suggested better facilities on the playing field, skate park, climbing wall. |
| Playground Martham Playing Field Play Area | West Flegg | Martham | REDESIGN | 2 out of 7 pieces of equipment with estimated 1-5 years life expectancy. Area is included in ongoing consultation work carried out by Play Park Improvements Group - PARISH/Martham Coronation Recreation Ground (MCRG) Charity |
| King George V Play Area & MUGA | Caister South | Caister | REDESIGN/ MUGA R&M | 3 out 12 pieces of play equipment with estimated 1-5 years life expectancy. The Parish Council have funding to install a zip wire in September. Aim to raise £36,000 towards a play castle. They would like to improve the play area working with GYBC. |

Subject: 2022/23 Period 4 Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring Report

Report to: ELT
Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee

Report by: HRA Service Accountant

SUBJECT MATTER/RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

Consider the 2022/23 Housing revenue and capital budget monitoring position as at the end of period 4.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. There is a statutory requirement to maintain a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and that account must not show a deficit. The HRA is a separate (ring fenced) account of the Council covering income and expenditure relating to its role as landlord. Under the self-financing arrangements for local authorities, the HRA records the costs of management and maintenance of the Council's dwellings and the related income from rents and other charges. The Government provides guidance on what should be included in the HRA to protect Council tenants.
- 1.2. Although there is not a requirement for a similar separation of capital expenditure, the capital programme as it relates to the HRA is separately monitored. This report outlines the estimated forecasts for the full financial year 2022/23 as well as showing the position of the HRA as at the end of period 4.
- 1.3. The regular review and monthly monitoring of the HRA budgets provides a sound basis for the preparation of estimates for 2023/24 and of the HRA Business Plan.

2. Budget Monitoring at Period 4 (April – July 2022)

- 2.1. For budget monitoring purposes, the actual expenditure and income to the end of period 4 is reviewed to produce estimated forecasts, compared against original budgets, for the 2022/23 financial year. Key variations are identified and explained within Appendix 1, HRA Income and Expenditure 2022/23.
- 2.2. To prepare updated forecasts, detailed analysis has been undertaken of actual figures and any further changes identified from the budget monitoring process, completed alongside services via review work. Updated forecasts are set out below; table 1 shows the HRA Income and Expenditure forecast and table 2 shows the HRA Capital Programme and planned resourcing of the programme.

- 2.3. The Housing Revenue Account summary, displayed within table 1, shows a revised 2022/23 forecast deficit of £0.991m, from a currently budgeted forecast deficit of £3.129m, resulting in a favorable movement of £2.138m.
- 2.4. The forecast changes incorporated within Table 1 and Appendix 1 are overall predictions which continue to capture the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2.5. The HRA employee turnover for 2022/23, to the end of period four is currently 1.36%. It should be noted, that the average headcount for the HRA is currently 85.
- 2.6. Employee turnover is the total number of leavers as a percentage of the average head count of employees over the period. In financial terms, turnover will result in underspends against direct employee related budget, for example pay, NI and pension when posts become vacant up to the point of recruitment. Some of the in-year vacancy savings will be offset using agency and interim appointments. Overall, for the period to the end of July there is a total spend of £822k for direct employee costs, with a revised budget forecast reduction of £66k to reflect vacancies in year.
- 2.7. The HRA forecast position is facing increasing pressures of inflationary costs, for example, utility costs and interest rate rises. Whilst some increases in utility costs were allowed for within the 2022/23 budget provision, the current level of increases have exceeded predictions for the financial year and could not have been envisaged. Utility costs for the Housing Revenue Account in 2021/22 totalled £242k, so a 10% increase in these costs amounts to £24k, with no adjustment made for usage. The forecast position for 2022/23 has been partly adjusted for some anticipated increase in utility costs in the main areas. Overall costs will be monitored closely, and forecasts updated as the year progresses.
- 2.8. Further, supervision and management costs are currently under review. The pending staff pay claims for 2022/23 are still to be finalised but are anticipated to be higher than the 2% pay increase allowed for within the budget for 2022/23. If an additional 1% was agreed above the current budgeted, this would result in a further increased pay cost of approximately £27k within the HRA. In addition the HRA receives a recharge for staff that are budgeted for within the general fund, for example from some of the support and democratic core functions. Therefore agreement of a pay award above the level budgeted will also result in an additional recharge of these costs also.
- 2.9. Repairs and maintenance budgets continue to reflect a reduction in demand led revenue void spend, along with gas heating repair spend. Both budgets are demand led and although demand has been reduced, the Council continue to be impacted by material price increases and are ensuring that cost controls are being utilized to ensure best value for money is achieved. Budgets will continue to be monitored going forward and further forecasts adjusted to reflect market changes.
- 2.10. As referenced in table 2, capital financing has been revised following the increased number of Right to Buy (RTB) sale completions year to date. As a result of increased completions, increased RTB receipts are available to fund the current years capital programme, reducing the requirement of revenue to finance capital.
- 2.11. Increased rents, rates and taxes spend forecast following increased insurance costs received in year. This is partly due to increased premiums received, along with additional perils being added to the policy. Further price rises are expected and will be reflected within the remaining quarters.

Table 1 - HRA Income and Expenditure Forecast 2022/23

| | Original Budget 2022/23 £000 | Current Budget 2022/23 £000 | P4 YTD Actual 2022/23 £000 | Full Year Forecast £000 | Full Year Forecast Variance £000 |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Dwellings Rents | (22,983) | (22,984) | (7,946) | (22,984) | 0 |
| Non Dwelling rents | (276) | (276) | (90) | (276) | 0 |
| Interest & Investment income | (16) | (16) | 0 | (40) | (24) |
| Charges for services and facilities | (1,284) | (1,284) | (470) | (1,284) | 0 |
| Total Income | (24,559) | (24,560) | (8,506) | (24,584) | (24) |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 9,615 | 9,728 | 2,923 | 9,421 | (307) |
| Supervision and Management (Direct Employee) | 3,080 | 2,850 | 822 | 2,784 | (66) |
| Supervision and Management | 2,842 | 3,071 | 517 | 3,224 | 153 |
| Rents Rates & Taxes | 330 | 330 | 290 | 373 | 43 |
| Depreciation | 3,849 | 3,849 | 1,283 | 3,849 | 0 |
| Total Expenditure | 19,716 | 19,828 | 5,835 | 19,651 | (177) |
| HRA Interest Payable | 2,846 | 2,846 | 844 | 2,896 | 50 |
| Capital Grants & Contributions receivable | (20) | (3,184) | (661) | (3,184) | 0 |
| Operating income and expenditure | 2,826 | (338) | 183 | (288) | 50 |
| Capital expenditure funded by the HRA (including grants) | 3,031 | 8,309 | 647 | 6,322 | (1,987) |
| Provision for bad and doubtful debts | 150 | 150 | 0 | 150 | 0 |
| Transfers (from)/to Earmarked Reserves | (60) | (60) | 0 | (60) | 0 |
| Contribution to Pension Reserves | 571 | (200) | 155 | (200) | 0 |
| Total Movement on the HRA | 3,692 | 8,199 | 802 | 6,212 | (1,987) |
| Deficit/(Surplus) for the year | 1,675 | 3,129 | (1,686) | 991 | (2,138) |
| Bfwd HRA Reserves Balance (01 Apr) | 9,412 | 9,412 | 9,412 | 9,412 | |
| Deficit/(Surplus) for the year | 1,675 | 3,129 | (1,686) | 991 | (2,138) |
| Cfwd HRA Reserves Balance (31 Mar) | 7,737 | 6,283 | 22,098 | 8,421 | |

3. Budget Monitoring Forecasts – Major Capital Programme

- 3.1. The Housing Revenue Account originally set a major capital works budget of £8.896m for 2022/23. Following the 2021/22 outturn, the 2022/23 capital budget has been updated to reflect all 2021/22 approved carry forward budgets, totaling £2.850m, to be delivered within 2022/23, along with its additional project spend of £3.097m.
- 3.2. Actual capital spend to the end of July 2022 totals £2.646m, as summarised in table two.
- 3.3. Capital programmes continue to be on track, such as Kitchen and Bathroom replacements, Major voids addressing some of the Council's vacant properties and capital heating improvements. Further work is now being undertaken to address the demands of communal areas within the capital programme, along with the programme also aiming to deliver the upgrade of communal doors and screens.
- 3.4. In addition to the above, 2021/22 presented the HRA with some exciting changes, undertaking three new developments, securing increased financial resources.
- 3.5. The Council was successful in bidding and securing £1.6m of grant funding under the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF). As a result of this, a wider programme is now being undertaken within 2022/23. The grant, along with a contribution from GYBC, is being used to support a project targeting a total of 85 properties, 74 Social Housing dwellings and 11 Privately owned homes, across a number of terraced streets in the Borough. Works aim to provide the needed fabric improvements, improving the energy performance of the buildings, as well as improving the quality of life for the tenants. Budget provisions for works are currently categorised within table two, under Decarbonisation.
- 3.6. The above decarbonisation works have been undergoing works in preparation for a site start and are now set to begin within quarter two. Further spend will be present within the later quarters on 2022/23.
- 3.7. Within the 2021/22 financial year, the Council was also successful in receiving £858k, to support estate regeneration. This funding is budgeted to support works to improve leisure and recreation facilities on the Middlegate estate. Works begun within 2021/22, with site completion planned later within the current year. Spend is present within table two, categorised under Non-Dwelling improvements.
- 3.8. Furthermore, The Council also successfully secured both Homes England and Brownfield land release grant funding, to support the development of 18 new one-bedroom affordable homes at Jubilee Court, Great Yarmouth. This project is budgeted at £3.4m and is currently being delivered using both grant and Right to Buy receipts, providing some valuable additions to the Great Yarmouth's affordable housing stock.
- 3.9. Jubilee Court is successfully within its construction phase and is targeted for completion within the early stages of 2023.
- 3.10. The HRA business plan continues to operate under the assumptions that only affordable and additional housing plans should use further borrowing, with the remaining capital financing being met from Revenue. The Council has continued to take a prudent approach following the removal of the debt cap and with no further guidance being provided around the repayment of debt. To ensure the sustainability of the HRA, future modelling may incorporate a blended approach of both revenue funding capital and further borrowing, aiming to increase the affordability of the HRA over the long term, managing its reserves.

3.11. Overall, capital spend is anticipated to increase in line with expectations, as capital spending tends to occur in the final quarters of the financial year. Presently no further changes have been made to the forecast spend of £14.842m.

Table 2 - HRA Capital Expenditure and Financing Forecast 2022/23

| Capital programme | Original Budget 2022/23 £000 | Current Budget 2022/23 £000 | P4 YTD Actual 2022/23 £000 | Full Year Forecast £000 | Full Year Forecast Variance £000 |
|---|---|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Kitchens & Bathrooms | 2,161 | 2,161 | 903 | 2,161 | 0 |
| Windows & Doors | 455 | 922 | 50 | 922 | 0 |
| Planned Maintenance | 595 | 595 | 71 | 595 | 0 |
| Energy Efficiency Improvements | 1,173 | 1,173 | 314 | 1,173 | 0 |
| Specific Planned Projects | 846 | 1,206 | 38 | 1,206 | 0 |
| Empty Properties | 800 | 800 | 380 | 800 | 0 |
| New Affordable Housing - Right to Buy receipts | 600 | 2,725 | 450 | 2,725 | 0 |
| New Affordable Housing – Additional Non 1-4-1 Provision | 500 | 985 | 0 | 985 | 0 |
| Decarbonisation | 792 | 1,806 | 5 | 1,806 | 0 |
| Roofing | 883 | 883 | 18 | 883 | 0 |
| Neighbourhood Plans | 91 | 177 | 2 | 177 | 0 |
| Housing Transformation Budget | 0 | 563 | 75 | 563 | 0 |
| Non Dwelling Improvements | 0 | 846 | 340 | 846 | 0 |
| Total Expenditure | 8,896 | 14,842 | 2,646 | 14,842 | 0 |
| Financing: | | | | | |
| Borrowing | 1,100 | 1,769 | 143 | 1,769 | 0 |
| Capital Receipts | 896 | 896 | 560 | 2,902 | 2,006 |
| Revenue financing capital | 3,031 | 5,144 | 0 | 3,138 | (2,006) |
| Depreciation | 3,849 | 3,849 | 1,283 | 3,849 | 0 |
| Capital Grant Contribution | 0 | 3,164 | 647 | 3,164 | 0 |
| Leasehold Capital Contribution | 20 | 20 | 13 | 20 | 0 |
| Total Financing | 8,896 | 14,842 | 2,646 | 14,842 | 0 |

4. Right To Buy (RTB) Summary 2022/23

- 4.1. Table 3 provides the number of the RTB sales made year to date at period 4 against our anticipated budgeted sales. Further analysis will be undertaken in Quarter 2 to review the projected sales anticipated for the full year.

Table 3 – RTB Sales 2022/23

| | Estimated Sales | Actual Sales |
|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Qtr. 1 | 4 | 18 |
| Qtr. 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Qtr. 3 | 6 | 0 |
| Qtr. 4 | 6 | 0 |
| Total | 20 | 18 |

- 4.2. Right to Buy sales have significantly increased in comparison to previous sales levels, with eighteen sale completions year to date, to the end of period four.
- 4.3. Increased sale completions in year will have a direct impact upon the level of capital receipts available to support the capital programme in 2022/23, as well as the level of Right to Buy Retained Receipts available in future years to support the development of Affordable Housing.

5. Social Housing Rents Consultation

- 5.1. The self-financing HRA remains governed by guidelines on rent setting for tenants. The council no longer has flexibility on the approach to rent setting due to the policy announced as part of the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016.
- 5.2. Rent setting following the end of the 1% reduction to all social rents in 2019/20, has been completed on the basis of CPI + 1% increases, in line with the Rents for Social Housing policy for the proposed year. For 2022/23, this equated to 4.1%, on both social and affordable rent.
- 5.3. Under current regulations the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September 2022, determines the increase in the formula rent for social rent properties in 2023/24 and provides the basis for the maximum actual rent increase for that year.
- 5.4. The HRA's recent briefing on inflation and business planning indicates a potential CPI annual increase to September 2022 of between 10% and 11%.
- 5.5. As a result of market predictions and to ensure that rental fees remain affordable for tenants, on 31st August 2022, the Government published a consultation paper proposing a cap on social housing rent increases for 2023/24, with options for the level of cap, period of cap and its application.
- 5.6. The consultation closes on 12 October 2022 (in advance of the announcement of the September inflation index). The Consultation includes a draft Direction on the Rent Standard (being the statutory instrument requiring the regulator of social housing to set a Rent Standard that complies with the policy), a draft policy statement and an impact assessment.
- 5.7. Further sensitivity analysis will be undertaken to understand the full impact of the proposals on Great Yarmouth's Housing Revenue account and any challenges it may face going forward.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. The Housing Revenue Account currently shows a revised 2021/22 forecast deficit of £0.991m, from an originally budgeted forecast deficit of £3.129m, resulting in a favorable movement of £2.138m. The Income and expenditure position will continue to be monitored going forward.
- 6.2. Major Capital spend to the end of July 2022 totals £2.646m. Spend is expected to increase as the year progresses. Budget totaling £14.842m is currently forecast to be delivered within 2022/23.

7. Financial implications and Risks

- 7.1. The detail within the report highlights the significant variances, including estimated forecasts of the full year impact to the HRA revenue and capital budgets. The report has flagged a couple of factors that are continuing to place financial pressure on Local Authorities, in particular the pay award and rising utility costs. Based on the outturn position for 2021/22 additional utility costs could be incurred in the region of £50k to £80k which would have an impact to the in-year revenue position and future year forecast. In addition until we have the outcome of the pay award for 2022/23, this and utility costs continue to place financial pressure to the HRA. These will both continue to be monitored to inform the update to the current budget and future financial forecast.
- 7.2. The income and expenditure will continue to be monitored in detail during the year, including additional reviews of the HRA 40 year business plan throughout the year.
- 7.3. The HRA is dependent mainly on the rental income stream of the social housing rents, and we have a dedicated team monitoring tenant arrears on a regular basis.

8. Background Papers

Areas of consideration: e.g. does this report raise any of the following issues and if so how have these been considered/mitigated against?

| Area for consideration | Comment |
|---|---------|
| Monitoring Officer Consultation: | |
| Section 151 Officer Consultation: | |
| Existing Council Policies: | |
| Financial Implications (including VAT and tax): | |
| Legal Implications (including human rights): | |
| Risk Implications: | |
| Equality Issues/EQIA assessment: | |
| Crime & Disorder: | |
| Every Child Matters: | |

Appendix 1 - HRA Income and Expenditure 2022/23

| | Current Budget 2022/23 £000 | Full Year Forecast £000 | Full year Forecast Variance £000 | Comments |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Interest & Investment Income | (16) | (40) | (24) | Interest rate increases in year have increased interest receivable estimations. Current market interest rates continue to rise and will be monitored to reflect any further changes. |
| Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges | 330 | 373 | 43 | Increased insurance premiums as a result of market increases and additional perils. |
| Repairs and Maintenance | 9,728 | 9,421 | (307) | Revenue heating works are forecast to reduce by £188k. This is partly due to increased capital works in prior years reducing over repair costs required. Void and responsive repairs are forecast to have a reduced demand year to date. Both budgets are demand led and although demand has been reduced, the Council continue to be impacted by material price increases. Revenue repairs can also be subject to seasonal trends, therefore, budgets will be monitoring closely going forward. |
| Supervision and Management | 3,071 | 3,224 | 153 | Increased temporary staff costs to maintain service operation while the housing structure is reviewed. This is partly offset by vacancies savings within supervision and management (staff pay). |
| Supervision and Management (Staff Pay) | 2,850 | 2,784 | (66) | Revised forecasts reflect housing vacancy figures. This saving is offset by interim consultancy staff being appointed in year (As above). |
| Interest Payable and Similar Charges | 2,846 | 2,896 | 50 | Interest rate increases in year have increased interest payable on current and future borrowing estimates by a forecast £50k. |
| Capital Expenditure funded by Revenue | 8,309 | 6,322 | (1,987) | Reduced revenue required to fund the capital programme for 2022/23 due to increased capital receipts being available. |
| Expenditure Total | 27,118 | 24,980 | (2,138) | |



URN: 22-113
Subject: Empty Homes Project Update
Report to: ELT 24 August 2022
Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee 15 September 2022
Report by: Sue Bolan - Enabling & Empty Homes Officer

SUBJECT MATTER

This report is to provide Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee with an update of current empty homes work, issues and next steps.

Recommendations

That Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee:

- Note the contents of the report and the next steps.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Homes empty for more than 6 months are monitored for the purposes of the Council Tax base return (CTB1). The CTB1 return made in October 2021 demonstrated a return to pre-pandemic levels of empty homes. These figures are a slight improvement to the 2019 return, the table below shows the breakdown of empty properties by time empty.

| Council Tax Charge | Oct 2019 | Oct 2020 | Oct 2021 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| C – empty for 6 months or more | 416 | 557 | 428 |
| Levy – empty for 2 years or more | 170 | 95 | 100 |
| Levy 5 – empty for 5 years or more | | 60 | 33 |
| Levy 10 – empty for 10 years or more | | | 13 |
| Total number of properties empty for more than 6 months | 586 | 712 | 574 |

The focus of empty homework is on properties which have been empty for at least 12 months, as some level of empty homes is a function of the housing market.

2. CURRENT EMPTY HOME WORK

- 2.1 The Council provides a range of options to support empty homeowners to bring their homes back into use. In addition, where the property has a negative impact on adjoining residents or the area, the Council can take enforcement action utilising the Council's powers to address issues and support properties being brought back into use, up to and including the use of Compulsory Purchase Orders.

The status of all empty homes which have been empty for 6 or months is monitored. When a property has been empty for 12 months the empty homeowner receives a first letter detailing the options available to bring the property back into use (listed below at 2.2), this is followed by a second letter explaining again why they are being contacted, re-stating the options available and the option of enforcement action by the Council. The property is then assessed as to whether enforcement action is necessary, recognising that owners have a right to leave their property empty, providing it is not causing a problem.

Where a complaint is made about a property, this is followed up with the relevant department and dealt with, if properties have several areas of concern or are particularly problematic they will be referred to the Operational Property Enforcement Group.

- 2.2 The options provided to empty home owners are:

- Purchase

Where a property meets specific criteria, the Council can purchase empty properties, making use of Retained Right to Buy Receipts or funding for a specific project. The Council is also aware of charities and organisations looking for properties and can make introductions. Funding for this option has been limited over the past 12 months due to the Council's own development aspirations, prior to this, 7 properties have been considered through this route with 3 being purchased in the past 2 years. A further 7 properties have been introduced to external organisations.

- Investors

Since the introduction of GDPR, the Council is unable to send lists of empty homes to those looking to purchase and renovate properties. A register of investors was created to keep that link and option open to empty homeowner. Investor details are held for 6 months, after which they are contacted to see if they wish to remain on the register. 7 registration forms have been requested in the past 12 months with details of 4 investors being registered.

- Website

The website provides information on options to help empty homeowners bring their home back into use, providing links to any external support as well as that provided by the Council.

2.3 Where a property is causing a problem, the Council have powers to force the owner to take action or carry out works in default of a notice. Planning, Environmental Health, Building Control, Conservation, Council Tax & Housing all have various powers which are used successfully in the Borough to either encourage the owner to complete works or provide an option to carry out works in default, resulting in a charge against the property. This can then lead onto an enforced sale or compulsory purchase.

The first enforced sale (through this route) is currently progressing. Compulsory purchases have also been carried out successfully in the Borough, 1 has recently completed with a further 3 in the early stages of the process. When a residential property is sold after a CPO, a covenant is used to ensure the works are completed and the property re-occupied within a certain time period. This is monitored by the Empty Homes Officer to ensure compliance.

2.4 Following amendments to the Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018, Councils were permitted to increase the premium charged to empty homeowners, Great Yarmouth implemented these changes over 3 years as shown in the table below.

| Levy | Effect | Introduction |
|---------|--|--------------|
| Levy | Double the council tax payable on properties empty for 2years or more | April 2019 |
| Levy 5 | Triple the council tax payable on properties empty for 5 years or more | April 2020 |
| Levy 10 | Quadruple the council tax payable on properties empty for 10 years or more | April 2021 |

On reviewing the data and re-establishing the status of individual properties, it was noted that some of the very long-term, well known empty properties (where the Levy 5 & 10 had been introduced) were beginning to be actioned (works beginning to be carried out or being marketed for sale).

Following further examination of the data, the introduction of the 2-year levy appears to have had an initial impact (in 2019/20) but subsequently the impact has been less significant.

| Year | Properties brought back into use | | | Levy Introduction |
|---------|--|--|---|-------------------------|
| | Properties empty for more than 2 years | Properties empty for more than 5 years | Properties empty for more than 10 years | |
| 2018/19 | 21 | 5 | 16 | No levy |
| 2019/20 | 17 | 8 | 19 | 2-year levy Introduced |
| 2020/21 | 15 | 8 | 8 | 5-year levy introduced |
| 2021/22 | 11 | 7 | 11 | 10-year levy introduced |

Further work is ongoing to understand the impact of the 5- and 10-year levy and whether it is encouraging owners to bring their properties back into use. It is however, noted that these levies will have increased income to the Council, with homes empty for 10 years or more paying four times the normal Council Tax bill. It should be noted that 54 properties, empty for 10 years or more, have been brought back into use over the past 4 years.

3.0 EMPTY HOME LOANS

- 3.1 The loan scheme was launched on 22nd November 2019 but unfortunately has not been successful. Despite an initial mail shot to all those empty homeowners who disclosed a financial barrier to bringing their property back into use, and continued introduction of the scheme in all options letters and direct approaches for help up to December 2021, no applications proceeded past the initial discussions.
- 3.2 Feedback from those sent the information was negative, largely related to the up-front cost of £300 to survey and create a schedule of works for the property, and the requirement for themselves to manage the work, as a result no formal applications were received and therefore no loans were issued.
- 3.3 Reflecting the lack of applications, the loan scheme was put on hold in December 2021. Work is being carried out to identify how other authorities are making this option work and discussions are being held with external organisations to understand the support they could offer.

4.0 INVEST AND LEASE SCHEME

- 4.1 An Invest and Lease Scheme provides another option to offer empty homeowners, under this scheme the Council would take a 7-year lease with an owner, renovating the property and letting it for the period of the lease. The renovation costs are recovered

through the rental income generated by the property when let.

- 4.2 Modelling of the Invest and Lease Scheme has shown that it is unviable for the Council to run. The scheme requires the Council to invest in properties and this capital investment is funded by borrowing, however, the MRP element of the borrowing means the loan cannot be repaid in the 7-year period. Even if the Council allocated capital reserves to the project it would not repay within the 7-year period. Modelling identified that even if capital receipts were used to fund the loan scheme, to fully recover the Council's investment would require a lease of 11 years which is unlikely to be of interest to empty homeowners.
- 4.4 There are external organisations which offer invest and lease schemes whereby the organisation carries out the repairs and rents the property. The Council's role would only be to introduce the empty homeowners to the option. As the organisation requires no monetary support from the Council, NP Law have advised a 'concession agreement' could be used to enter into a relationship with such a scheme provider, work is being carried out to identify if this is an option for the Council.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The table below details the next steps for empty homes work. Future reports to Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee will provide an update on these actions and on the empty homes figures.

| Option | Action Needed | Timescale |
|-----------------------|--|-----------|
| Empty Home Loan | Revisit the offer, review best practice elsewhere, including externally hosted, to bring forward an offer which is less resource intensive for the Council and more attractive to the empty homeowner. | 2022/23 |
| Invest & Lease Scheme | Investigate the use of external organisations, to make a recommendation to Housing Growth group before taking to Committee. | 2022/23 |

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The approved borrowing for empty homes is currently £510,447. There has been no expenditure over the last financial year or this year to date.

7. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Risk implications were considered during the creation of the Empty Homes Policy.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Legal implications were considered during the creation of the Empty Homes Policy and NP Law have been consulted on the agreement and all paperwork associated with the project.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 Empty homes figures have returned to pre-pandemic figures. Proactive work slowed significantly during 2020 because of redeployment and other workstreams taking priority. Proactive empty homes work started again in June 2021.

The introduction of the increased levy charges has created movement on some of the well-known longer-term empty properties but does not appear to have had an overall impact on properties being brought back into use, next steps is to review earlier data to confirm trends.

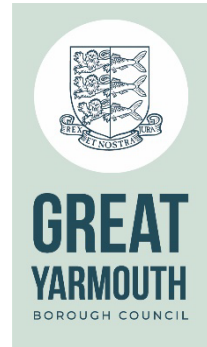
Ongoing actions have been identified at section 5.0, these actions and an update on empty homes figures will be provided to Housing & Neighbourhood Committee in the future.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Empty Homes Policy – Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee – 6th December 2018

Use of Retained Right to Buy Receipts Policy – Housing & Neighbourhoods Committee – 4th February 2021

| Area for consideration | Comment |
|---|--|
| Monitoring Officer Consultation: | ELT |
| Section 151 Officer Consultation: | Yes |
| Existing Council Policies: | Empty Homes Policy Town Centre Masterplan |
| Financial Implications (including VAT and tax): | Section 5 |
| Legal Implications (including human rights): | Section 7 |
| Risk Implications: | Section 6 |
| Equality Issues/EQIA assessment: | No |
| Crime & Disorder: | No |
| Every Child Matters: | No |



Subject: Physical Activity Development Update

Report to: Executive Leadership Team, Wednesday 3rd August 2022

Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee, 15th September 2022

Report by: Kate Blakemore, Strategic Director

Andy Oakley, Active Norfolk, Great Yarmouth Locality Development Officer

SUBJECT MATTER

The Council currently works in partnership with Active Norfolk to deliver its Active GY Framework and wider sports development through the appointment of a jointly funded Physical Activity Development Officer since October 2020.

This report provides ELT/committee members with an update following the first-year action plan of 2021/22.

Highlights of the subsequent outcomes because of this partnership working and dedicated resource include:

- Reduction of inactivity (<30min) by 4000 residents
- Significant spending in the Borough through: Sport England Together Fund (£60k); Department for Education (£200k); Community Renewal Fund via Volunteer It Yourself project (£100k).
- Targeted training opportunities for Early Years services & settings.

RECOMMENDATION

That ELT/this committee

- 1) Note the contents of the report
- 2) Note the impact report & outcomes 21/22 (see Appendix 1)
- 3) Agree to the Active GY Framework Action Plan (see Appendix 2)

1. Background

- 1.1 Local authorities have a central role to play in the provision of community sport and recreation facilities. From local parks to leisure centres, local councils enable a huge range of leisure activities and sport to happen.
- 1.2 Research shows that exercise is one of the key determinants of health along with the strength of our personal social network – recent research suggests that it is more important to health outcomes than levels of smoking or obesity. Community sporting activities contribute to both.
- 1.3 Great Yarmouth Borough Council has recognised this, making a once in a life time investment into a new Leisure Centre on its seafront, allocating capital funding to support the development of the Wellesley Recreation site into an outdoor physical activity hub, to the development of its Active GY Framework alongside its innovative approach to working with Active Norfolk.
- 1.4 Active Norfolk is the Active Partnership for Norfolk and is one of 43 Partnerships created by Sport England. Active Norfolk is hosted by Norfolk County Council and its role is to provide a strategic approach to the development of sport and physical activity in Norfolk, aiming to support Norfolk residents to lead healthy and active lives.
- 1.5 Over the last few years the Council has worked closely with Active Norfolk to better support its residents to become more physically active. As a result, Active Norfolk took a lead role in reviewing our Sports, Play and Leisure Strategy creating the Active GY Framework in 2019.
- 1.6 In recognising the scale of the ambition within this Framework it was clear that dedicated resource would help bring about sustainable changes at pace, and as a result a shared Physical Activity Development Officer for Great Yarmouth was jointly appointed in October 2020, in partnership with Active Norfolk.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 This report provides an overview of key progress & outcome achieved in the 21/22 financial year in terms of the Active GY Framework action plan, supplemented with a detailed impact report created by Active Norfolk.
- 2.2 The overall success of this work can be seen as the latest inactivity figures for Great Yarmouth show a downward trend for inactivity in 21/22 of 4% which equates to approximately 4000 residents (18+) taking up more than 30 minutes of physical activity per week. This is great news for our residents, and whilst this work cannot be fully attributed to this improvement, it is clear that it would have contributed to this positive change.

3. Outcomes Overview

3.1 Over the last year much has been achieved. The following sections provides a summary of this activity.

Active GY Steering Group

- Whilst an initial review of this group created some focus, a recent further refresh was undertaken to ensure the right people from the right organisations attend, so that this group focusses on delivery in relation to our Active GY Framework Action Plan. This will be further reviewed during the year to ensure continued delivery.

Active GY Framework Action Plans

- Progress with the 21/22 Action Plan has been reviewed. By the nature of the Framework that supports the Sport, Play & Leisure Strategy (2014-29) several commitments require ongoing efforts to progress actions & opportunities. While others have a clear completion point. Of the 25- 1st Year Commitments- 54 action point were defined, of which 35 were achieved. Some of the ongoing actions form 'business as usual' for partners, such as supporting Early Years & Families into activity. Of those uncompleted, most focused around work force development & campaigns, that were hampered by COVID-19 restrictions & re-prioritisation of workforces.
- A Year 2 annual action plan has been created to support the delivery of the Active GY Framework with actions being led by partners from this group, including GYBC and Active Norfolk officers. An officer from NHS Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group is chairing this group.

GYBC Activity

- The Council has worked hard to embed physical activity opportunities across the organisation, including developing a Locality Action Plan (Tackling Health Inequalities) as part of the Council's Locality Boards Objectives
- It also embedded these principles as part of its leisure operator procurement, resulting in the New Operator putting in direct investment into an Active Community Manager post, who is working in partnership with the Council and Active Norfolk to further deliver against the Active GY Framework
- The Council has also worked to develop the Wellesley Recreation Site into a hub for outdoor physical activity, recently investing in its athletics facilities and submitting a funding bid for a new 3G pitch facility on this site

Funding

- There have been several physical activity related funding projects delivered in the Borough over the last year. Our Physical Activity Development Officer has worked to develop these projects that has been able to draw down funding from the Department for Education, Sport England, the Community Resilience Fund, the Football Foundation & Norfolk County Council to name a few.
- **Department for Education**- Supporting the creation of provision across the Easter, Summer & Winter breaks for children eligible for free school meals, the Physical Activity Development Officer coordinated to-date **£200k+** investment into delivery partners to create an offer suitable to provide enriching opportunities for 4-16year old's, including a meal which they may otherwise go without.
- **Together Fund**- (Formally the Targeting Inequalities Fund) drew in **£60k** for GYB Covid-19 recovery programs that focus on disabilities, long term conditions, diverse communities & Low-social economic groups, which included:
 - Team tennis well-being sessions for residents struggling with the effect of C-19 on their mental health & well-being.
 - Work readiness programme supporting people through physical activity to improve their own health & well-being to become work-ready for further training, employment, or volunteering.
 - A walking, cycling & yoga programme for those managing long term conditions including poor mental health.
 - Activity sessions made available through Special Olympic Norfolk to engage residents with disabilities in adapted activities.
 - Vulnerable women's group exercise through Feather Futures to support victims of domestic abuse come together & rebuild confidence & self-esteem through various activities.
- **Opening School Facilities**- the fund brought in **£18.5k** to targeted schools in the borough to enable them to fund sessions & purchase equipment to engage their pupils & surrounding residents in a variety of ways, from swimming pool maintenance to cricket kit, & adapted equipment for SEND pupils.
- **Community Renewal Fund**- Awarded to Volunteer It Yourself, **£100k** was guided by the Physical Activity Development Officer to opportunities in the locality where facility repair & refurbishment work to improve an area for physical activity could be undertaken by local NEET residents to upskill & engage them in employment & training.

Additional Activity

- Supporting the promotion and update of Cycling UK grants and campaigns
- Mediating parkrun return post Covid lockdown
- Introductory conversations with Youth Offending Team to consider the role that physical activity has in supporting their work
- Collaborating around the system and locality level concept of a formal Exercise Referral Scheme commissioned by Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group
- Promotion and education of the Active Practice Charter to local Primary Care Networks.

4. Active GY Framework Action Plan for 2022/23

- 4.1 The degree of this year's progress & success will be measured through a combination of 'seen' & 'unseen' metrics based on numerical & non-numerical data & including networks. This will include financial investments brought in for physical activity, training participation, health tool kit development, physical activity pathway developments, new networks created, new partnerships brokered, infrastructure design & implementation support, & increased local opportunities to access physical activity, as a few examples. A dozen key strategic partners will support the steer of this work, while 100's of operational workforce staff will drive the work at a neighbourhood level.
- 4.2 With the new appointments of the Leisure Strategy & Contract Manager for GYBC & the Active Community Manager for Freedom Leisure, there is a core partnership trio in place to support the progression on Active GY Action plan for 22/23. This support will amplify the connection between GYBC, Freedom Leisure & framework partners to support common actions, while avoiding duplication.
- 4.3 This Action Plan will be reviewed regularly as part of the Active GY Steering Group to ensure tangible outcomes are delivered.

5. Financial Updates

- 5.1 Whilst Great Yarmouth Borough Council allocated £25,000 investment to support this shared post for 22/23, with Active Norfolk contributing to the remaining funds required for this post alongside providing in-kind investment to provide strategic oversight and line management to this post holder, the CCG has also put in £5,000 towards this arrangement.

6. Recommendations

Note the contents of the report.

Note the impact report & outcomes 21/22 (see Appendix 1)
Agree to the Active GY Framework Action Plan (see Appendix 2)



ACTIVE

GREAT YARMOUTH

IMPACT REPORT 2021/22

INTRODUCTION

I'm extremely proud to share some of the key achievements highlighted in this impact report. In what have been challenging circumstances, the collaboration between Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Active Norfolk has produced some hugely positive outcomes for residents and delivered resources and support to communities across the borough.

A great example of this work has been the distribution of the Tackling Inequalities investment in the area. Community groups and organisations across the borough received the highest proportion of the total investment available in the county. This is a testament to the work of the Locality Officer and the quality of relationships which have been established and developed throughout the last couple of years.

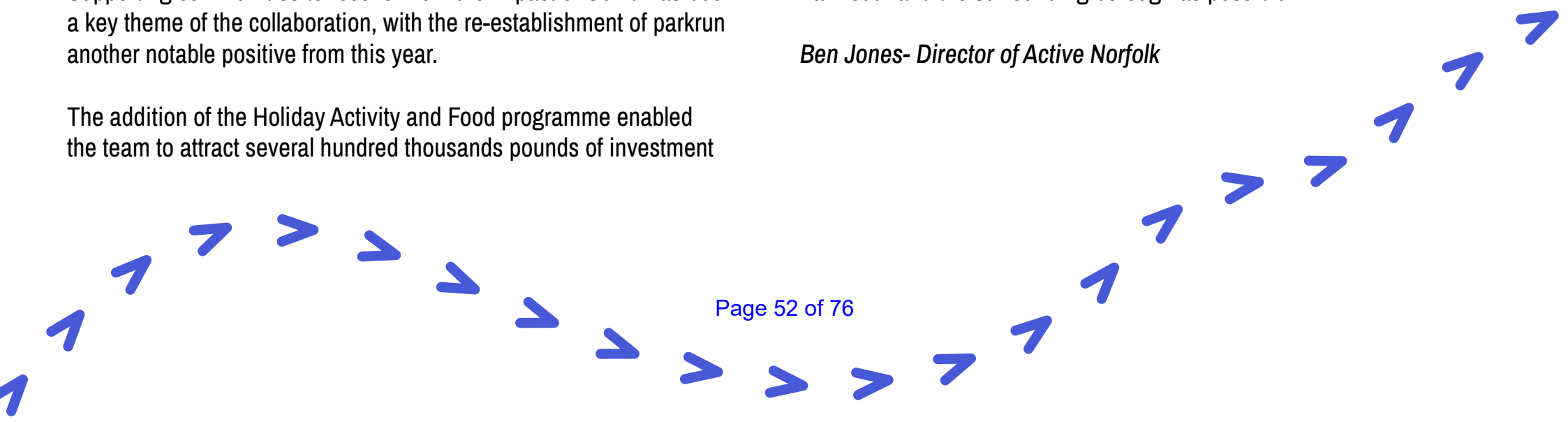
Supporting communities to recover from the impact of Covid has been a key theme of the collaboration, with the re-establishment of parkrun another notable positive from this year.

The addition of the Holiday Activity and Food programme enabled the team to attract several hundred thousands pounds of investment

into the area, providing much-needed resources for local community organisations and a diverse range of activities and food for children and young people eligible for free school meals. As this work continues, plans are in place to continue to invest in local groups, to grow capacity and improve and adapt the offer for young people across the borough.

Finally, the growth of networks and partnerships has been a hugely positive consequence of the work of the last year. It's our belief that growing our understanding of the needs and challenges facing communities, then connecting the groups and people who want to work together to make things better, supported by an increase in targeted investment, gives us the best possible chance of making real and long-term differences through physical activity for as many residents of Great Yarmouth and the surrounding borough as possible.

Ben Jones- Director of Active Norfolk



OUR VISION

Inspiring active lives in Great Yarmouth for every person to be active in a way that suits their lifestyle and contributes to a healthier, happier community.

PARTNER FEEDBACK

With an overall score of 9.1/10 given through our Partnership Satisfaction Survey, the relationship between Active Norfolk and Great Yarmouth Borough Council continues to flourish. The key positives from the survey were:

1. Embedding physical activity in what we do
2. Having a positive impact on Great Yarmouth Borough Council
3. Sharing a clear purpose on why we work together

We look to continue progress as we move in to an exciting year for the Borough with launch of the new Marina Centre.

AGREED PRIORITY AREAS

- ✓ Reducing inactivity
- ✓ Improving early years development
- ✓ Raising aspirations
- ✓ Improving lives of people living with long-term health conditions
- ✓ Improving mental health
- ✓ Reducing social isolation



REDUCING INACTIVITY

April 21- April 22 saw a reduction of **4% (4000 adults)** in Inactivity for the Borough. With most people moving from Inactivity (<30) in to the Fairly Active (30-149) bracket, **while Active numbers (150+) maintained their position.**

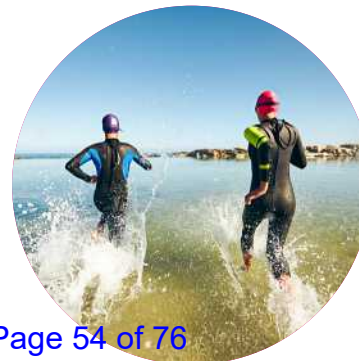
In April 2021 Active Norfolk launched the Great Yarmouth Borough Council (GYBC) pledge page for partners to sign up to the Physical Activity Framework of commitments we collectively developed in 2019/20. A range of partner sign ups included:

- Children Services
- Further Education providers
- Norfolk F.A.
- East Norfolk School Sport Partnership
- Several Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE)
- Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation Trust
- Library Services
- Early Childhood Family Service
- Norfolk & Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group.

Providing lead members across all workstream commitments.

In 21/22 we saw:

- Progression & completion of the **GYBC local cycling & walking infrastructure plan**, endorsed by the Town Deal Board. ↙
- The return of parkrun to **North Beach & Gorleston Cliffs.** ↙
- Triathlons, Half-marathons & 10k races delivered from the beach front.
- The start of a new Playing Pitch Strategy to support increases of & improvements to local assets.
- Start & completion of a GYBC **'Open Space'** assessment for leisure & play use. ↙
- The formation of a physical activity provider network forum.
- A new **Leisure Centre operator** appointed with strong ambitions for community engagement & ownership. ↙



REDUCING INACTIVITY

The Big Norfolk Holiday Fun (BNHF) Programme delivered **10 weeks** of activity & food to the Borough's children at risk of food poverty across school term breaks. The last year saw **£200k** invested into the locality through Active Norfolk's Locality Officer coordination of the BNHF offer.

Over 40 GYB providers, venues & schools have expressed interest or signed up over the last year with many supporting the year ahead, to build on the **580** children and young people already engaged.

The administration of the Together Fund (AKA TIF) resulted in over **£24k** for 21/22. That's £56k dedicated to Borough projects since the start of Covid-19, plus a further £71k on multi-locality projects that include Great Yarmouth Borough.

13 Borough specific projects including circus skills, zumba, yoga, orienteering, cycling & tennis as a few examples, supporting local residents around their mental health, loneliness, reducing isolation, engaging women & girls & community engagement.

Tackling Inequalities Funding: OutThere Arts - Active Norfolk ↗

The development of an Active GY brand will continue to develop in 22/23. Logo development went well & will form the imagery for training, presentations, campaigns & events moving forward.

Two key pieces of public consultation were agreed last year & will inform an engagement plan for the coming 12 month.

- Ideas to Action - this focuses on face-to-face public consultation in the Nelson Ward to inform work to reduce health inequalities in residents 18+, through the data & insight gathered.
- Right to Succeed - will focus on youth engagement in the Nelson Ward to support communities in areas of high deprivation to give children and young people the best start in life.



IMPROVING EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT

- **£10k of funding** to support Get Active, targeting early years services & settings to engage children & families in physical activity.
- Connecting activity providers to venues & funding to create targeted opportunities in areas of need.
- Inclusion of the Active GY framework commitments within partner strategies & action plans, such as the Early Childhood Advisory Board.
- Worked closely with 35+ partners through the DECAN to promote physical activity across a wide range of partners working with Early Years.

Community Focus Officer Case study: The DECAN Community funded a new parent & toddler group with Harfreys Gymnastics:

“We go to another couple of parent & toddler groups, but these are general groups playing with toys. My little boy loves this active group as he likes to explore new things and easily gets bored. He likes something different. I can also walk to this group as it’s just up the road from where I live. Since coming here, I’ve also joined an adult group for myself, so it’s got us both out being physically active and seeing people which is great”.

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RAISING ASPIRATIONS

EDUCATION

Proactive working with education establishments to encourage & support physical activity into students' everyday lives is a key part of the role.

Connection of the 'Barclays Girls Football School Partnership' programme to East Norfolk 6th Form College to help girls become more physically active with improved well-being, increased physical literacy of five- to eight-year-olds and help all girls develop the confidence and competence to play football at school and in a community setting.

Big Norfolk Holiday Fun participation from **8** schools providing a venue. All the Borough schools have been contacted to promote activity & food provision, which has enabled a broader discussion around embedding & increasing physical activity into school plans.

Active GY School Games Officer Elliot Udell had a busy year:

Back in November 2021 he engaged **48 pupils from 3 secondary schools** in a Leadership Academy Day, with presentations & workshops supported by Dr Aoife Slattery; Strategic Lead: Children and Young People Joel Matthews; & Sports Leaders from East Norfolk 6th Form College, to deliver 3 sessions developing Yr9-10 knowledge, understanding and experience in leadership. Followed by **60 Yr 1-4 pupils** targeted from Rollesby Primary school for engagement.



ENSSP Secondary Leadership Academy Day - News - East Norfolk SSP ↖

In March 2022 a record 16 GYB schools attended the East Norfolk School Sport Partnership (SSP) Cross Country Event at Bure Park. Over 500 children took part & following on from that day we encouraged schools to provide the children the opportunity to develop further by putting on clubs after school, lunchtime and before school, as well as encourage everyone to run the daily mile at school and to join a local community club/park runs to promote health and fitness in East Norfolk.

ENSSP YR 3/4/5/6 Cross Country - News - East Norfolk SSP ↖

For more news on the East Norfolk School Sports Partnership visit: www.eastnorfolkssp.co.uk/news ↖

Open School Facility (OSF) funding targeted four schools to the sum of **£18.5k** to support the maintenance & opening of site facilities to engage key pupils, including free school meals, high PE Premiums, SEND. We were also able to hold discussions about appropriate use of school sport premiums.

RAISING ASPIRATIONS

EMPLOYABILITY

Department Work & Pension (DWP)

Connection to the GYB Employability Network has allowed access to 30+ employability stakeholders, where physical activity opportunities, programme, projects & training resources can be shared.

Department of Work & Pension working closely with Sentinel Leisure on their Positive Change Programme, an Active Norfolk funded programme targeting Borough residents; and the Kick Start Opportunities, to get young people into the Leisure Sector.

Volunteer It Yourself (VIY)

Support was requested from Active Norfolk Locality Team to support VIY identification of local community spaces in need of refurbishment that would support the uptake of physical activity.

In March 2022 two local projects were identified in Kingfisher Boxing club, GY; & the College Community Hub, Gorleston. **26** unique individuals engaged to learn new skills while developing a physical activity facility. Using **over £100k** landed for GYB locality projects.

VIY provides free on-site construction volunteering opportunities and

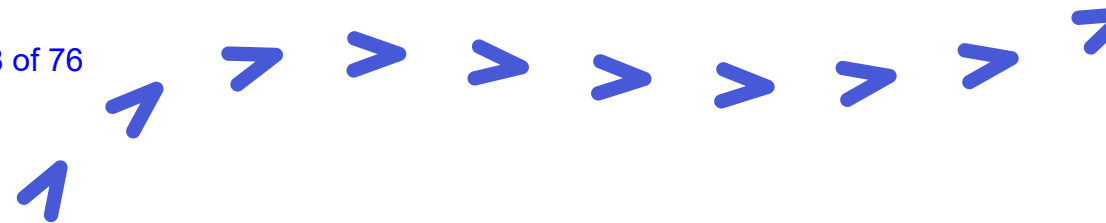
Entry Level 3 City & Guild accreditations for NEET*/pre-NEET young people aged 16-24. (*Not in Education Employment or Training)

"I enjoyed the course very much, I was feeling anxious at first but the trainers were very understanding and made me feel really comfortable. It's kept me busy and helped me build my confidence."

Billie, 24, from Great Yarmouth. Billie has since joined East Norfolk Sixth Form college.

Volunteers

Volunteer services offer wide reaching opportunities to support people back into physical activity who may feel unable to manage those first steps alone. In 2021 a new post developed with Voluntary Norfolk focussed on management of Long Covid support volunteers. Norfolk & Waveney Integrated Care System was awarded funding by NHS England to create a best-in-class post covid service to support our NHS and social care workforce that are experiencing prolonged issues due to contracting covid-19. Part of this service will enable staff to be assessed and prescribed suitable physical activity. Overseen by Active Norfolk, Voluntary Norfolk will be hosting a volunteer coordinator role that will be responsible for supporting staff patients, identifying and recruiting a network of community buddies that will facilitating access to different community activities.

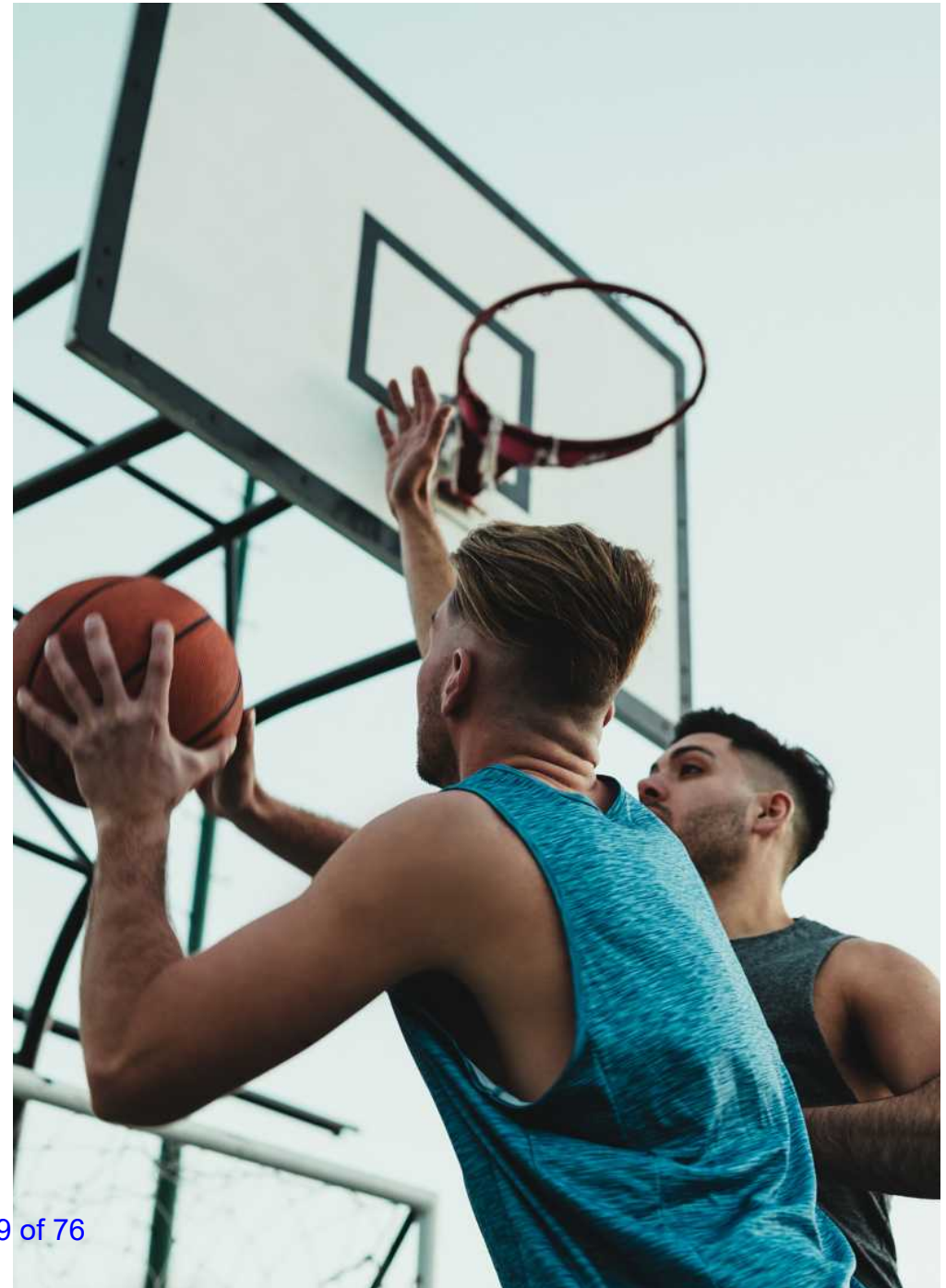


RAISING ASPIRATIONS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

With a strong evidence base to show the benefit physical activity has in diverting people away from offending behaviour this year saw new relationships built & ideas formed, with a view to progress opportunities in to 22/23. Working with the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN), Children Services & local providers, targeting & making a marked impact next year is high on the agenda.

Conversations with Community Sport Foundation around a bespoke physical activity offer in the Nelson Ward to target vulnerable young people has been positive, with promising prospects for this year if we can connect funding from those service that will benefit in the support.





LONG TERM CONDITIONS

34,000 patients to benefit from several training sessions delivered to GP's, practice nurses & social prescribing staff across GYB, progression towards the first Active Practice Charter (APC) sign ups were made when East Norfolk Medical Practice identified a lead practitioner to register the four connected surgeries. A key part of this work will be the support it offers to both the clinical staff & patients they care for. The APC aims to reduce sedentary behaviour & inactivity, while connecting both patients & staff to local provisions & the use of custom toolkits.

Throughout the pandemic we have promoted the benefits of sustaining physical activity to supported mental health & well-being, while also reducing the risk of conditions associated with being more susceptible to Covid-19 symptoms. Working with the Market Gates vaccination centre we promoted local opportunities through our Active Outdoors & Active Indoors webpages, in addition to supplying **over 600** active at home packs to those unable to be active outside.

At system level there has been a lot of work going into the development of a Countywide Exercise Referral programme for Norfolk. With great established practice taking place outside of Great Yarmouth Borough, we were keen to make sure that equal opportunity was given to the East as much as it was elsewhere. Through innovative collaboration of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Active Norfolk & local partners, an agreement to develop the CCG funded programme in GYB is in place & will take next steps in 22/23 to connect with local delivery organisations to enable the countywide offer here in GYB.



IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH

A key project to restart following the 2021 Lockdowns was the **All to Play For** sessions that focus on supporting men's mental health.

A well-established & attended group sadly had to give up their Wednesday activity, but in April 2021 they were able to return to the Wellesley. In 21/22 - **More than 20 men** (16-18 weekly average) have been supported to use physical activity to promote positive mental health & boost confidence to support them into accessing other services such as mental health professionals & local support services. On average participants are 24 years old with around 1 in 5 having a registered medical condition. **ATPF_Oct21.pdf**

"Overall, I've enjoyed the "All to Play For" sessions. I've found it lifts my mood and allows me to be social once a week. I found the course has lifted my confidence but there's still a way to go." Koti, 23

"My mental state is more positive due to this group; it gives me something to look forward to and gives me a sense of purpose." Mauricio, 29

Learning from the principles of All to Play For & supported through the 'Together Fund' **Team Tennis** was created in 2021 to support Great Yarmouth residents in managing poor mental health & well-being through inclusive weekly group tennis sessions. With the pandemic taking its toll on many people's wellbeing, creating choice in opportunities to become active was important. Mike from Gorleston Tennis Club proposed a plan to use the Gorleston Cliff courts to deliver to groups of 12, who wanted to use physical activity to improve their mental & physical health, as well as tackle isolation. Connecting Mike with local support services helped in identifying residents who would benefit from the free sessions; & moving into 22/23 he plans to grow that offer with further targeted support from Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation Trust, MIND & the Wellbeing service. Great exit options will allow participants to continue with tennis while allowing new participants to join free classes. To date **20 diverse individuals** have participated within this project.

To support discussion around the use of physical activity to improve mental health we started an exploratory network group, inviting local mental health professional, along with other services that support vulnerable people, or who provide opportunities to work with people struggling with their mental health or well-being. While in its early stages it offered the chance to connect professionals with existing activities & explore the opportunities to build physical activity into their regular work & conversations with service users & colleagues.

REDUCING SOCIAL ISOLATION


Much of the process of creating & promoting new, accessible & inclusive physical activities naturally develops an opportunity to tackle isolation & loneliness. As the people we want to engage are those furthest away from physical activity & potentially hidden from support services, working creatively to develop engagement with professionals who can in turn offer physical activity or use physical activity to engage, allows a new social opportunity to be offered to residents.

As a result, breaking chronic isolation due to ill health, poor mental health, social inequalities & deprivation can be made.

Early 2021 we identified & arranged training for a telephone conversation service call 'Hullo'. Along with some similar local services. The principle being that these services reached into isolated communities through phone conversation. While the conversations are led by the participant, We were able to train the volunteer callers to be confident in discussing physical activity as a means to reduce isolation or at least support physical & mental health & reduce the risk of deconditioning that many isolated individuals are susceptible to. Callers are also able to guide residents toward locality resources where they can find groups, clubs & social activities.

In a similar piece of work, locality training of both the Great Yarmouth & Northern Villages Primary Care Network; & the Gorleston & Southern Parishes Primary Care Networks' social prescriber teams allowed the opportunity to refresh & reinforce the benefits of physical activity along with the local opportunities available to the patients that they support. Through the use of the Active Norfolk pages & supported by the new **Every Move activity finder** for Norfolk, social prescribing & clinical staff are able to support patients to explore the opportunities in GYB & enable them when they are ready to access a group or activity. Coupled with the direct support offer from the Voluntary Norfolk's- Better Together team who can accompany individuals who need a little more support to their chosen session.





Through much of the Together Fund application I supported, the element of inclusion for GYB residents shined through. A desire to support & connect with people through physical activity, who may otherwise miss out due to multiple barriers.

With a focus on reducing isolation, one such application from Jo at 'Feather Futures' looked to use the power of physical activity to support women escaping domestic abuse.

Through consultation with the women she supports (over 200 active referrals), Jo planned an array of options that I was able to connect her with, including yoga, clubbersize, zumba, health walks, Tai chi & boxercise. Spread over a 6-month period it allowed a level of consistency & opportunity too try new activities safely. Over that period 48 women were engaged & further funding continues to sustain safe, inclusive activities for them.

Led by Cotman Housing the 'Make Your Move' project supported new residents to the Borough by giving them **free** places in local physical activity groups for up to 3 months to help with improving physical, mental & social health. Several residents have now benefited from the project, with more plans for 22/23.

"I have been attending this funded class for some months now. The class has really helped me with my mental health and I really look forward to the weekly class, it's a lovely treat and I look forward to the supportive advice i get there."

"Zumba means a lot to me. It gives me self-esteem and improves my health. I started after being diagnosed with endometrial cancer and I had gained so much weight before coming. I have lost 10kg since I started and I am less risk to have caner again. It's a life saver for me."

"This class offers so much to me. I haven't done a social fitness class for about 9 years. As a single parent I can not justify costs for things like this so the fact it is funded and free for me opens the door for opportunity. MORE than this it's starting to help build my self-esteem and confidence around these things and generally in myself. It's a non-judgemental supportive environment as well which makes all the difference. I can't put into words what difference this has made. I have a giggle and let off a bit of steam."



IMPACT REPORT 2021/22



ACTIVE

GREAT YARMOUTH

ACTION PLAN 2022 / 2023

| Workstream | Commitment | How | Specific Actions | Outcomes | Support From | Targets | Timescale |
|------------|---|---|--|---|--|---|-----------|
| Strategy | Embed PA into GYBC & partner strategies to use it as a tool to make physical activity the norm for GY | Establish strategic membership for the Active GY Steering Group and align this with the Integrated Care Partnership Structure | Ensure the Active GY group reflects senior strategic partners from across the Borough. | Identify new opportunities to influence and embed physical activity into strategy and policy. Ensure a clear join-up between the Great Yarmouth Locality Strategy and the work of Active GY. Delivery of Active GY Framework. | Integrated Care System, Integration and Partnerships Manager Active Norfolk, Locality Development Officer | Active GY representation at the Great Yarmouth Health and Wellbeing Partnership. Clear governance structure that allows Active GY to report 'up the chain' and receive feedback 'down the chain' | Ongoing |
| | | Connect with Freedom Leisure's Community Action Plan | Ensure link-up between the work of Active GY and that of Freedom Leisure. | Complimentary community-based action plans that avoid duplication and encourage cross-working | Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Leisure Strategy and Contract Manager | Monthly meetings between the Locality Development Officer and Freedom Leisure | Ongoing |

| Workstream | Commitment | How | Specific Actions | Outcomes | Support From | Targets | Timescale |
|---------------------|--|--|--|--|---|--|-------------------------|
| Active Environments | Influence local design and infrastructure to support physical activity | Promote Active Travel conversations and consult on new development proposals | Connect with Great Yarmouth Borough Council's planning team. Review Great Yarmouth Borough Council's corporate projects and identify opportunities for link-up. Enhance Norfolk County Council plans within the Borough of Great Yarmouth. | Connect the Active Norfolk Strategic Lead for Active Environments to the relevant project leads at Great Yarmouth Borough Council. Connect Norfolk County Council projects to Great Yarmouth Borough. | Active Norfolk, Strategic Lead: Active Environments | Bi-monthly meetings between Active Norfolk and Great Yarmouth Borough Council | Review by November 2022 |
| | Develop the use of green space in Great Yarmouth Borough | Support the progress of Playground and Open Spaces action planning | Incorporate physical activity into the use of green space based on the Borough Council's assessment | Clear action plan in place for the development and use of green space | Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Leisure Strategy and Contract Manager | Updates at the Active GY Steering Group as appropriate | Ongoing |
| | Develop the use of Active Travel in the Borough. | Connect with Borough projects around connectivity of places and people | Identify corporate projects where physical activity can support outcomes. Progress the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan in the Borough. | Embed walking and cycling opportunities within corporate projects. Utilise the findings of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. | Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Development Director | Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan implementation (at least 1 relevant project) | Ongoing |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|------------|
| Active Environments (continued) | | | Enable and enhance opportunities for Active Travel through knowledge, networks, and funding. | Develop an annual walking event | | An increase in the number of trips made via Active Travel means | |
| | | Create new ways to engage residents in Active Travel | Support the James Paget Hospital with Active Travel planning | Support a new Cycling Hub start-up Support discussions on appropriate venues for a new parkrun in the Borough. | Active Norfolk, Strategic Lead: Active Environments | 1 walking event planned and conducted 1 new cycling hub 1 new parkrun proposed | March 2023 |

| Workstream | Commitment | How | Specific Actions | Outcomes | Support From | Targets | Timescale |
|----------------------|---|--|--|---|---|--|---------------|
| Health and Wellbeing | Promote physical activity in conjunction with the health system | Provide simple, relevant, and up-to-date information to key health system partners | Develop and launch an Active Practice toolkit Create pathways to local physical activity providers via Every Move | Creation of a clinical toolkit to support the promotion of physical activity | Active Norfolk, Inactivity and Health Development Manager Active Norfolk, Strategic Communications Officer | General Practices utilising the Active Practice Charter Increase number of relevant activities hosted on Every Move | October 2022 |
| | | Support acute care cancer pathways | Embedding physical activity into cancer pathways | Connect with Freedom Leisure to identify staff that would benefit from relevant workforce training. As above, with local community organisations | Active Norfolk, Inactivity and Health Development Manager Freedom Leisure, Centre Manager | 1x staff member qualified to Level 4 2x staff members qualified to Level 3 | March 2023 |
| | | Develop the local approach to implement the Active NoW Exercise Referral programme | GYB focused workshop on local offers Create specification for provider delivery | Working referral pathway connecting residents to targeted provisions | Integrated Care System, Integration and Partnerships Manager Advanced Public Health Officer | To be confirmed through specification development | November 2022 |

| Workstream | Commitment | How | Specific Actions | Outcomes | Support From | Targets | Timescale |
|-------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Early Years | Work across Early Years services to develop and increase opportunities for physical activity | Identify areas of need and connect providers to deliver in these areas | Regular attendance at the District Early Childhood Advisory Board Engage Freedom Leisure in Early Years conversations | Early Years provision built into Freedom Leisure's community engagement plan. Identify new opportunities for Early Years | Children's Services, Partner and Community Focus Manager Children's Services, Senior Advisor Strategy and Partnership (Learning and Inclusion) | Early Years offer from Freedom Leisure that meets local need Introduction of 2 new Early Years specific opportunities | February 2023 March 2023 |
| | | Connect and develop provision to local assets | Connect providers to local services | Increased provision on Every Move | | Increase in number of Early Years offerings on Every Move by +2 | March 2023 |
| | Effectively promote the opportunities available to Early Years so the right people know the right information | Connect provision with broader partners and networks who directly engage with the target audience Use data and insight to target | Include local need and opportunities in partner training Advocate for provision to be included on Every Move platform | Positive uptake of current and new Early Years provision Inclusion of local opportunities in training packages | Children's Services, Partner and Community Focus Manager Children's Services, Senior Advisor Strategy and Partnership | Reported increase in Every Move traffic across Early Years offers Increase in number of Early Years offerings | March 2023 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|------------|
| | | promotion to the right audience | Connect and share opportunities | | (Learning and Inclusion) | on Every Move (2) | |
| | Support the development of parent/carer led activity sessions for 0-5s | Identifying parents with the motivation to lead on physical activity opportunities | Liaise with the District Early Childhood Advisory Board Connect relevant funding to support start-up groups Identify training needs | Create new parent led physical activity sessions Appropriate promotion of new activities | Children's Services, Partner and Community Focus Manager | 2 new parent-led sessions 12 families engaged with the new offer | March 2023 |

| Workstream | Commitment | How | Specific Actions | Outcomes | Support From | Targets | Timescale |
|---------------------|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| Raising Aspirations | Work with criminal justice partners to include physical activity as a tool to divert young people from offending behaviour | Provide training on opportunities for physical activity, its benefits, and how it can reduce offending | Identify criminal justice services that would benefit from such training | Delivery of bespoke training. Increased acceptance of the role physical activity can play in preventing offending. Increased willingness to invest in physical activity | Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Community Safety Officer | Deliver 2 targeted training sessions through the Youth Offending Team and/or the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner | March 2023 |
| | Use physical activity provision to divert young people away from offending behaviour and in to engaging physical activity, education, and training | Map existing opportunities for this cohort. Connect with criminal justice services. Explore options for Big Norfolk Holiday Fun provision. | Engage with current provider opportunities. Support connectivity with criminal justice services. Consult service users. | Identify and enhance existing offers. Engage target adolescents into a reformatory physical activity offer. Support the Right to Succeed project | Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Community Safety Officer Right to Succeed, Programme Director | Create 1 Big Norfolk Holiday Fun offer for this cohort. | October 2022 |
| | Work with education settings to promote physical activity in school improvement plans | Develop relationships across the Borough. Support communication plans with schools. | Target disengaged settings to support the most inactive children. Support 'We Will' project and advocate for physical activity. Promote the Big Norfolk Holiday Fun scheme. | Develop clear understanding of where the need for physical activity is highest. Increase Big Norfolk Holiday Fun awareness & uptake. | Active Norfolk, Education Development Officer Active Norfolk, Partnership and Programmes Manager | Create a clear list of schools to engage with and work to build relationships with them. Increase number of schools offering Big Norfolk Holiday Fun sessions from 7 to 12. | March 2023 Ahead of Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Easter 2023 |
| | Ensure PE and sport premium funding supports the pupils in most need | Support the School Games Officer and influence their work plan. Develop and extend relationships with education partners across the Borough. | Advocate for education providers to use their PE and sport premium funding to target the least active children. | Support the promotion and delivery of the East Norfolk School Sport Partnership events. Provide schools with insight to help guide their PE and sport premium spending | Active Norfolk, Education Development Officer | Number of schools engaged with the East Norfolk School Sport Partnership events. Number of children attending the East Norfolk School Sport Partnership events. | March 2023 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | Contribute to the 'Healthy Child' data | | | |
| | Work with employability organisations to include physical activity as a tool to support work readiness | Provide training on the benefits of physical activity and how it can support wider aspirations | Explore the role physical activity has in support the pathway to employability. Create an employability training package. | Deliver training package to employability partners. | Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Leisure Strategy and Contract Manager | Deliver 6 training package | March 2024 |

| Workstream | Commitment | How | Specific Actions | Outcomes | Support From | Targets | Timescale |
|-------------------|---|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| Reduce Inactivity | Lever funding to support local communities | Draw funding through various sources to support the execution of this plan in conjunction with wider Council priorities | Connect to Department for Education funding to increase Big Norfolk Holiday Fun provision. Promote the use of and support the bid process for Together Fund applications from providers in the Borough. Identify new funding opportunities that support this plan. | Increased Big Norfolk Holiday Fun provision. Utilise full allocation of Together Fund to support the needs identified through this plan. Support funding bids that meet the needs of this plan from partners in the Borough. | Active Norfolk, Locality Development Officer Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Leisure Strategy and Contract Manager | Increase in the number of Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Providers from 16 to 24 Commit £15,000 to organisations in the Borough through the Together Fund Secure funding to replace six tennis courts in Gorleston | Ahead of Big Norfolk Holiday Fun Easter 2023 March 2023 December 2022 |
| | Support annual physical activity campaigns | Develop a consortium of Active GY marketing and communication partners, together with local delivery partners. | Develop Active GY branding conversation to utilise partners assets and strengths Create a timetable of annual campaigns and events Create an Active GY annual campaign Support the launch of the Marina Centre | Explore the launch of Active GY as a campaign and improve awareness of Active GY among Borough Council staff. Support a range of annual campaigns linked to the priorities in this plan. Connect Active GY to the launch of the Marina Centre. | Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Head of Marketing and Communications Integrated Care Partnership, Communications and Engagement Lead Active Norfolk, Strategic Communications Officer | Stand up a Communications Working Group as part of the Active GY work. Create timetable of events that could be supported by the working group. Explore the possibility of an Active GY annual campaign and move this forward if it is realistic. | August 2022 To begin in January 2023 Start in August 2022, decision by October 2022 |
| | Develop local insight across population priority groups | Utilise data and insight to guide the work within this plan, with a clear focus on health and social inequalities | Connect with the Integrated Care Partnership and Public Health to pool data resources. Identify priority target groups via data sharing. Use data and insight to support targeted work. | Reviewing where resources are best spent according to the latest data and insight Clear insight into relevant target groups | Public Health, Advanced Public Health Officer Active Norfolk, Insight and Evaluation Officer | Review of the 2021 Census data when released. Report to the Active GY Steering Group. Higher engagement with Diverse communities; Early Years families; children & young people living in the Nelson ward. | As and when the Census data is released. Ongoing |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| | | <p>Targeted consultation to support the commitments in this plan.</p> | <p>Engage with local populations to gather insight.</p> <p>Support insight with surveys and focus group work as appropriate.</p> | <p>Speak directly to residents through the Ideas to Action programme.</p> <p>Engage with the Right to Succeed consultation and survey within the Nelson Ward</p> | <p>Integrated Care System, Integration and Partnerships Manager</p> <p>Right to Succeed, Programme Director</p> | <p>Delivery of Ideas to Action programme with key partners across the Borough.</p> <p>Clear understanding of the Nelson Ward & delivery of Right to Succeed programme to support the needs of the area.</p> | <p>March 2023</p> <p>Discovery phase completion November 2022</p> <p>Delivery Phase beginning January 2023</p> |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|

Active G.Y. 22/23 Q.2. Flash Report

Workstream owner: Andy Oakley

RAG: **Green**

Aims:

- Align & coordinate partner working towards the targets set out in the Active GY 22/23 Plan.
- Promote & guide funding opportunities to enhance Borough provisions & promote increased use by residents.
- Improve accessibility & uptake of physical activity to Borough residents where high inequality exists.

Progress this phase:

- Active GY Plan for 22/23 approved by GYB ELT, along with previous years Impact Report for partner sharing.
- Workshop for Active NoW completed to support identification of localised delivery.
- Funding drawn in to support facility improvement such as the Gorleston Cliffs Tennis Courts (£120k)
 - Which enabled the continued development of the Wellesley Recreation Ground.
- Partnership development with two new key posts held by Freedom Leisure & GYBC to support the delivery of the Active GY Plan.
- Promoting local opportunities via the new Marina Centre grand opening by connecting Borough based providers.
- Continued development & increased provision of the Big Norfolk Holiday Fun programme across the Borough.
- Delivery partner forum set up.
- Right to Succeed project engaged & acting as Lead on Physical Activity needs.
- Active GY brand discussion held.

Plans for next phase:

- Development of the Active NoW referral specification to enable funding for local targeted delivery.
- Discussions for a Norfolk Walking Festival to conclude in the Borough, coupled with new Natural England Event.
- Early Years family survey development to support gap analysis of provision available, wanted & needed by local families.
- Progress Junior parkrun discussion for the Caister area.
- Right to Succeed project delivery phase to begin in Autumn to explore opportunities.
- Community consultation planning for the Nelson Ward.

Key Risks

- Active NoW progress may need to consider other providers.
- Consultation work pieces may yield poor responses & require further work.

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Issues for escalation / decision to H&WB



URN: 22-156

Subject: Rough Sleeping Update

Report to: ELT 24 August 2022
Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee 15 September 2022

Report by: Nicola Turner, Housing Director

SUBJECT MATTER/RECOMMENDATIONS

This report provides information on the work undertaken to reduce the number of rough sleepers and the funding which has been secured/bids which are being developed to deliver extra services to support rough sleepers in the borough.

Recommendations:

That Committee:

- 1. Note the update on the work of the Rough Sleeping Team and the external funding secured and being bid for.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1** The report provides information on the work of the Rough Sleeping Team as well as a brief update on the wider Housing Options Service. It details specific funding which has been secured to support the Council's work on reducing rough sleeping.

2. Rough Sleeping Team

- 2.1** Since the Everyone In initiative in 2020, the Council has built upon and enhanced its approach to Rough Sleeping establishing a dedicated rough sleeping team within the Housing Options Service. Over this year and the next two years the focus of the team will to move from an approach led by interventions to support rough sleepers off the street to an approach which is prevention led in order to deliver a sustained reduction in rough sleeping across the borough.
- 2.2** The Rough Sleeping team consists of the following posts funded by RSI funding and directly employed by the Council:

- Rough Sleeping and Pathways Coordinator
- Landlord Liaison Officer [Page 72 of 76](#)

- Pathway Officer (complex cases)
- Pathway Outreach Officer x 3
- Reconnection and Assessment Officer – vacant
- Healthcare professional* - vacant
- Mental Health Officer (0.5FTE) * - vacant

*The Council will be working collaboratively with East Norfolk Medical Practice (ENMP) to recruit these posts.

2.3 Whilst the Rough Sleeping Team as shown above are the Council's primary resource for reducing rough sleeping, they work collaboratively with the wider Housing Options Team and also with voluntary and statutory organisations as part of the wider system led approach.

2.4 The number of individuals sleeping rough does fluctuate, since November 2021 and the last formal annual count, the number of people known to be rough sleeping has reduced from 21 to 9 (29 July). Members are provided with monthly updates on the numbers of individuals rough sleeping and being supported by the team. The work of the team during the recent heatwave was featured in the Great Yarmouth Mercury team [see here](#).

3 Housing Options Service

3.1 The Housing Options Service currently has four teams reflecting the additional temporary staff resourcing brought in to address the backlog of applications. This additional team is bringing down the backlog with a month-on-month reduction in housing applications which are yet to be assessed.

3.2 Work is currently underway to bring in a new waiting list and allocation system which will see the introduction of an online housing application form. Support will be available for applicants who will need assistance in applying. As part of the new system going live, the new Housing Allocations Scheme will go live. Prior to these changes going live, members will be notified of the final timescales for these changes and on the arrangements for applicants to re-apply.

3.3 Within the Housing Options Team there are a number of posts which are funded using external monies:

- Domestic Abuse Advisor – funded by DLUHC Domestic Abuse New Burdens monies, supporting victims of abuse and leading on the project to achieve Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation.
- Ex Offender Officer – this post is one of a number of posts across Norfolk. Funding was originally to expire in September 2022, but a successful bid was made to extend the service until the 31 March 2023. A future bid to extend the post is due to be submitted to extend funding to March 2025.
- Homelessness Prevention Case Worker x 3 – these posts are funded by Norfolk County Council via the Council's contract with Bridges Outcomes Partnership. Originally funding two posts, a one year additional post was agreed reflecting the Council's exceeding its KPI referral numbers.

4. New Funding – Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG3) Funding

4.1 Earlier this year, Public Health were informed by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) that an allocation of funding under the above programme was to be made to the Great Yarmouth area. The amount of funding was not advised and Public Health

were invited to submit proposals setting out the amount of funding sought and providing a clear rationale and use of the funding. Working collaboratively with the Council and the voluntary and statutory services in the borough, a bid proposal was produced. DLUHC have now confirmed the award of funding as follows:

| 2022/23 Allocation | 2023/24 Allocation |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| £392,811 | £523,747 |

The Council is one of 83 districts and 5 pan-London areas awarded RSDATG funding.

- 4.2 The emphasis of the funding is to provide wraparound and engagement teams which address existing gaps in service provision and which improve both initial access to treatment and sustained treatment for rough sleepers with drug and/or alcohol addictions. The proposal recognised the existing effective multi-agency working and focused on addressing gaps or weaknesses in provision. Whilst the proposal delivers extra posts to achieve this, one of the fundamental aspects of the proposal submitted is also to upskill existing staff in supported housing so they have the skills and confidence to be able to manage former rough sleepers who may drink and/or use drugs on premises. Currently this behaviour is generally not tolerated and leads to evictions which can then be a barrier to that individual’s ability to access or maintain treatment.
- 4.3 Reflecting the multi-agency response to rough sleeping, new posts funded by RSDATG will be hosted by a number of agencies. The Council will host three (potentially four) of the posts as part of the Rough Sleeping Team. Public Health will take on responsibility for the required funding reporting.

5. Funding Bid – Mental Health Clinical Led service

- 5.1 In July, Norfolk County Council submitted an EOI on behalf of Norfolk for new funding to support rough sleepers who have mental health problems. Additional funding is being provided through the NHS England and NHS Improvement (Eastern Region) team to improve support for rough sleepers with complex mental health needs. The funding allows for an area to become a “high needs rough sleeping site”, with sites in Luton, Milton Keynes and Southend already established. Funding is available in 2022/3 to mobilise and establish services by the start of Q4 with the full allocation of funding in 2023/4 available to deliver the service. Funding would then be rolled over into future years into core health funding.
- 5.2 The Norfolk EOI was developed collaboratively and at pace. The funding requires a clinical led approach to supporting rough sleepers which is welcomed reflecting the number of rough sleepers who have diagnosed or undiagnosed mental health conditions. The EOI was one of three successful EOI asked to submit a final proposal. The feedback on the EOI was to focus on a smaller geographical area, which the county wide group have agreed will now only be the borough of Great Yarmouth. If the final proposal is approved, a dedicated mental health clinician would be appointed to work within the Council’s Rough Sleeping Team and as part of the system of statutory and voluntary services, although they would be employed by the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT).
- 5.3 The approach proposed in the final proposal reflects the RSDATG funding and addresses an existing gap in service provision which the RSDATG funded services cannot support – clinical support. The new service would share learning across Norfolk to support future bids for funding to extend the service to other parts of Norfolk.

6.0 Supported Housing Provision

6.1 In recognition of the lack of supported housing available to rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping, the Council has successfully bid via the DLUHC/Homes England Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme for capital and revenue funding to deliver:

- **Housing First Scheme**

Providing five self-contained homes for rough sleepers who have multiple support needs. All five homes have been purchased of which two are now occupied and the remaining three allocated and awaiting their new residents once furnished. Access Community Trust were procured to deliver the dedicated support service. The new service is working well.

- **Transitional Housing Scheme**

Acquisition of six properties from a private developer to meet the needs of rough sleepers with low/medium support needs. The purchase is ongoing. Due to the level of revenue funding, it is proposed that the Council directly provides the support service by recruiting a dedicated Support Worker post.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8. Risk Implications

8.1 There are no risk implications associated with this report.

9. Legal Implications

9.1 The Council will enter into a funding agreement with Norfolk County Council in relation to the RSDAG3 funded posts which the Council will host and manage.

10. Conclusions

10.1 The report provides an update on the work of the Rough Sleeping Team and the collaborative work which taken place in bidding for external funding to fund new posts which will bolster the services available to address drug and alcohol addictions of rough sleepers and to support rough sleepers with their mental health – both of which can be a barrier to successful moving away from the street. The report also provides a brief update on the wider Housing Options Service including the external funded posts within the service.

11. Background Papers

Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme Bid – Transitional Housing Scheme. Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee 19 May 2022 and Council 23 June 2022

Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme Bid – Housing First Scheme. Housing and Neighbourhoods Committee 23 September 2021 and Council 28 September 2021

Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan 2020 – Policy and Resources Committee 28 July 2020 and Council 30 July 2020

Areas of consideration: e.g. does this report raise any of the following issues and if so how have these been considered/mitigated against?

| Area for consideration | Comment |
|---|--|
| Monitoring Officer Consultation: | Via ELT |
| Section 151 Officer Consultation: | Via ELT |
| Existing Council Policies: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-2023 • Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan 2020 |
| Financial Implications (including VAT and tax): | None |
| Legal Implications (including human rights): | Discussed in report |
| Risk Implications: | None |
| Equality Issues/EQIA assessment: | The needs of individuals who are rough sleepers or at risk of rough sleeping with protected characteristics have been considered in the development of the bids for funding set out in this report and in the Council's support of rough sleepers. |
| Crime & Disorder: | None in relation to the adoption of the policy. |
| Every Child Matters: | Not applicable |