THE RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting of the Rugby Borough Council will be held in the Benn Hall at 7.00pm on Thursday 17 June 2021.

Mannie Ketley
Executive Director

A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1.   Apologies for absence.

2.   Minutes.

        To approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 20 April and the annual meeting held on 20 May 2021.

3.   Declaration of Interests.

        To receive declarations of -

        (a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;

        (b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors; and

        (c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 - non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

4.   To receive the Mayor's Announcements.

5.   Questions pursuant to Standing Order 10.

6.   To receive the reports of Cabinet and Committees which have met since the last meeting of the Council and to pass such resolutions and to make such orders thereon as may be necessary:

(a) Cabinet – 7 June 2021

(1) South West Rugby Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Adoption – Growth and Investment Portfolio Holder.

7. To receive and consider the Reports of Officers.

(a) Grants Review 2021/22 – report of the Chief Officer - Communities and Homes.

(b) Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025 – report of the Chief Officer – Leisure and Wellbeing.

(c) Temporary Appointment to Withybrook Parish Council - report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance.

8. Notices of Motion pursuant to Standing Order 11 - in accordance with the Council's Constitution, no motions on notice have been received for consideration.

9. Correspondence.

10. Common Seal.

To order the affixing of the Common Seal to the various orders, deeds and documents to be made or entered into for carrying into effect the several decisions, matters and things approved by the Council and more particularly set out in the Committees' Reports adopted at this meeting.

11. Motion to Exclude the Public under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

To consider the following resolution:

"under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act."

PART 2 – EXEMPT INFORMATION

1. To receive and consider the private Report of Officers.

(a) Senior Management Restructure – Appointment to Roles – report of the Executive Director.

DATED THIS 9th day of June 2021

To: The Mayor and Members of Rugby Borough Council

QUESTIONS AT COUNCIL

A Councillor may ask a Question at the meeting by giving notice in writing of the Question to the Executive Director no later than midday on Friday 11 June 2021. The rules relating to Questions are set out in Part 3a of the Constitution.

REPORT OF CABINET

7 June 2021

PRESENT:

Councillors Lowe (Chairman), Mrs Crane, Miss Lawrence, Poole, Roberts, Ms Robbins and Mrs Simpson-Vince.

Councillors Mrs O'Rourke and Roodhouse were also in attendance.

Note: An electronic version of the Cabinet report referred to below can be found here.

1. **SOUTH WEST RUGBY MASTERPLAN SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD) ADOPTION**

   Cabinet considered a report concerning the proposed adoption of the supplementary planning document (SPD) for South West Rugby.

   Recommendation of Cabinet

   Cabinet decided to recommend to Council that -

   (1) the South West Rugby Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) be adopted;

   (2) the South West Rugby Masterplan SPD be published on the Council's website, with the adoption statement being made available and sent to any person who has asked to be notified of the adoption of the SPD; and

   (3) delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to make minor grammatical and presentational amendments as necessary to the South West Rugby Masterplan SPD either prior to or following adoption, and prior to it being published.

   Recommended that – the recommendation of Cabinet be approved.

COUNCILLOR S LOWE
CHAIRMAN

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title: Grants Review 2021/22

Name of Committee: Council

Date of Meeting: 17 June 2021

Report Director: Head of Communities and Homes

Portfolio: Communities and Homes

Ward Relevance: All

Prior Consultation: Cross-party Councillor Review Group (Cllrs Crane; Mrs Roodhouse and O'Rourke)
Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA)
Voluntary and community sector
Previous applicants to the one-off community grants programme for the last 3-years

Contact Officer: Michelle Dickson (Communities and Projects Manager) tel: (01788) 533843
email: michelle.dickson@rugby.gov.uk

Public or Private: Public

Report Subject to Call-In: No

Report En-Bloc: No

Forward Plan: Yes

Corporate Priorities: This report relates to the following priority(ies):

☐ To provide excellent, value for money services and sustainable growth

(CR) Corporate Resources
(CH) Communities and Homes   ☐ Achieve financial self-sufficiency by 2020
(EPR) Environment and Public Realm   ☒ Enable our residents to live healthy, independent lives
(GI) Growth and Investment   ☐ Optimise income and identify new revenue opportunities (CR)
☒ Prioritise use of resources to meet changing customer needs and demands (CR)
☐ Ensure that the council works efficiently and effectively (CR)
☐ Ensure residents have a home that works for them and is affordable (CH)

☐ Deliver digitally-enabled services that residents can access (CH)
☒ Understand our communities and enable people to take an active part in them (CH)
☐ Enhance our local, open spaces to make them places where people want to be (EPR)
☐ Continue to improve the efficiency of our waste and recycling services (EPR)
☐ Protect the public (EPR)
☐ Promote sustainable growth and economic prosperity (GI)
☐ Promote and grow Rugby's visitor economy with our partners (GI)
☒ Encourage healthy and active lifestyles to improve wellbeing within the borough (GI)
☐ This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but

Statutory/Policy Background: The review is in response to the adoption of the new corporate strategy to ensure that the one-off community grants contribute positively to achieving the identified outcomes.

Summary: In January 2021, Cabinet approved the review of the grants programme to ensure that funding is aligned to delivering the priority outcomes in the corporate strategy.

Delegated authority was given to the Head of Communities and Homes to establish a Cabinet-led cross-party Working Group to agree terms of reference and undertake the review.

It was also agreed that for 2021/22 applicants that were allocated funds would have 2-years in which to deliver their project, from the date of confirmed grant allocation to align with Covid-19 recovery.

The review started in February 2021 and was conducted in accordance with agreed term of reference (see appendix 1).

The review identified an opportunity to encourage groups to be more innovative and creative by departing from the very specific designated funding pots that had become a feature of the programme in more recent years.

It should be noted that the review focused on the strategic objectives of the grants programme. This did not extend to the grants

application process which was reviewed in preparation for the 2019/20 grants round, where it transitioned from a paper-based process to a digital one.

Financial Implications: There are no new funding issues arising from this review, only a recommendation that the existing levels of funding are used in a more creative way to ensure that the available funding is allocated in a transparent way that contributes positively to the achievement of the outcomes of the new corporate strategy.

Risk Management Implications: There are no new additional risks arising from this approach.

Environmental Implications: The proposals for suitable projects do reflect the need to tackle climate change, nature loss and accessing greenspace to help well-being in line with the Council's aim to be net zero by 2030.

Legal Implications: The Council has a wide power within section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.This is known as the 'well-being power' and seeks to promote or improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the Council's area. The statutory power includes providing financial assistance to achieve this purpose.

In addition to the 'well-being power' the Council is also able to utilise the General Power of Competence under the Localism Act 2011. This represents a more recent statutory power and further strengthens the ability of the Council to provide financial assistance as set out within this report.

Equality and Diversity: An Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment has been carried out and forms appendix 2 to this report.

Options: To approve the recommendations of the group which will ensure that the grants programme is able to contribute positively to achieving the outcomes of the recently adopted corporate strategy in 2021/22.

The alternative is not to approve the recommendations and to conduct a further review. However, the resulting delay will impact

on the council's ability to deliver a grants programme for 2021/22.

Recommendation: The Cabinet Working Group's recommended amendments to the grants programme, outlined in section 4.0 of this report, be approved.

Reasons for Recommendation: Representatives from the main political parties have collaborated on the review. In doing so, a consensus has been achieved that this is an equitable and transparent way of delivering the grants programme whilst simultaneously achieving the desired outcomes of the corporate strategy.

Council - 17 June 2021

Grants Review 2021/22

Public Report of the Head of Communities and Homes

Recommendation:

The Cabinet Working Group's recommended amendments to the grants programme, outlined in section 4.0 of this report, be approved.

1.0 Introduction

The one-off annual community grants programme is just one way in which the Council supports the work of the local voluntary and community sector in Rugby.

A Cabinet led cross-party Working Group of Councillors was appointed to consider the current programme - Cllrs Crane, Mrs Roodhouse and O'Rourke, with support from Raj Chand (Head of Communities and Homes) and Michelle Dickson (Communities and Projects Manager). The terms of reference for the group form appendix 1 to this report

The grants review provided an opportunity to:

- Ensure the grants meet the needs of our communities, by aligning them to the objectives of the corporate strategy and recovery plan, as well as the corporate equality objectives,

- Make most effective use of limited resources,

- Avoid duplication of funding opportunities,

- Encourage participation of a broader range of organisations,

- Engage with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) through consultation

- Support the VCS to identify appropriate funding opportunities, encourage self-sufficiency and reduced reliance on RBC support*

  *this was suggested by WCAVA, who were consulted in drafting the Terms of reference for the review

2.0 Process

The group met on 4 occasions to consider the current grants programme, from a strategic perspective. The application process did not form part of the review as this piece of work was completed in 2018, which resulted in the digitalisation of the grants process for the 2019/20 grant round onwards.

An important part of the work of the group was to better understand the issues being faced by customers of RBC and noted through their interactions with services, specifically:

1. High degrees of social isolation and loneliness noted throughout the pandemic (shielding hub and customer contact centre).

2. The Citizens Advice Bureau reporting issues of increased presentations from younger people that have not previously engaged with advice services or the benefits system. The most common issues are - worries about potential redundancy, financial inclusion and increased pressures on families that were already struggling before the pandemic.

3. Skills gaps to get into jobs that are potentially available locally have been noted.

4. Mental health of younger people is an issue given the prolonged periods of isolation. There were already reports of increased self-harm amongst secondary school students, in some parts of the borough, ahead of the pandemic.

5. The healthy eating programmes administered by the Council has highlighted i) a lack of budgeting and cooking skills ii) high dependency on microwave and take away food iii) lack of awareness of some foods / food groups

3.0 Consultation with the voluntary and community sector

An e-consultation (Survey Monkey) was carried out amongst the sector, which was kindly facilitated by WCAVA (see appendix 3). In addition, applicants that have previously applied to the community grants programme, over the last 3-years were also consulted.

47 responses were received, which was approximately 10%. WCAVA endorsed this as being a healthy response rate for a survey of this kind amongst the sector.

The survey responses are summarised in appendix 4 and indicate that the sector is supportive of the alignment of grant-funding resources as a means of helping to achieve the priority outcomes of the Corporate Strategy.

4.0 Proposed changes to the grants programme

In January 2021, Cabinet agreed to funding for 2021/22 as follows detailed in table 1, below:

Grant Fund	Proposal 2021/22	Detail
Community Projects Grant	£38,410	One-off revenue grants up to a maximum of £2,000.

		The £38,410 will be split along the lines of the 2020/21 allocation: £20,410 Grants to Voluntary and Community organisations £6,000 Sports Grant £6,000 Arts grant £6,000 Youth and Play Grant
Rural Development Fund	£25,000	one-off revenue grants up to £10,000
Total	**£63,410**	

Following the review, it is proposed that from 2021/22:

Grant Fund	**Proposal 2021/22**	**Detail**
Community Projects Grant	£38,410	One-off revenue grants up to a maximum of £3,000 The historical ring-fence of Grants to Voluntary and Community organisations, Sports, Arts, Youth and Play be discontinued.
Rural Development Fund	£25,000	One-off revenue grants up to £10,000 – rural area only
Total	**£63,410**	

.

It is proposed that as part of the application process for 2021-22, applicants to both the Community Projects Grant and the Rural Development Fund must demonstrate how their proposed projects will help residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected. Each project (Community Grants and Rural Development fund) must demonstrate how it is going to contribute to one or more of the following:

- Helping to tackle climate change and nature loss (for example, projects which contribute to tree-planting, nature conservation, edible gardens, reducing carbon emissions and encouraging recycling and repairing)

- Encouraging exercise and physical wellbeing (for example projects which encourage sports, fitness and play activities)

- Financial and digital inclusion – (for example projects which help people to increase their confidence with digital technology or in managing their finances)

- Tackling loneliness and isolation for all generations (for example community arts projects and play activities)

- Education and training to narrow the skills gaps in our communities (for example projects which help people to learn new skills or brush up on existing ones)

- Access to healthy foods and cooking (for example cooking for fun sessions for families to learn about preparing fresh meals and meal planning)

- Helping people to access green spaces for well-being (for example converting small pieces of land into something that the community can enjoy)

It should be noted that the examples provided above are just that and are not intended as an exhaustive list of what will be considered for funding. The aim is to encourage innovative ideas which will deliver these outcomes for communities.

The Rural Development Fund will continue to support projects that that will help enhance or improve village community assets such as village halls and play areas etc. This ties back to the priorities outlined above, for example tackling loneliness, isolation and encouraging sports and physical well-being. The match funding requirements, according to parish population size will remain unchanged.

Incomplete applications, which do not include all the required supporting documentation, will be excluded from the process at the due diligence stage and will not progress for consideration by the Grants Woking Party.

5.0 Additional issues highlighted by the review

Despite being outside of the scope of the review, the consultation responses highlighted that some issues are experienced with the downloading of documents and similar for customers using MAC technology when applying for RBC grants. This is a known issue with the current platform being used to host the application process. The good news is that this will be resolved when the council migrates to a new platform which is scheduled to go live ahead of the new grants application process going live.

The group considered the ring-fence around the Rural Development Fund and whether this was appropriate going forward. The conclusion was that the pandemic had highlighted issues for rural communities being able to access both services and fit for purpose community facilities. Therefore, the continuation of the ring-fence was appropriate to continue to support the needs of our rural communities.

The potential to allocate a modest amount of funding to WCAVA to support groups in getting constituted and grant ready was considered. However, WCAVA did question the need for this as the resource requirements to set up as a charity with an income of less than £5,000 is limited to insurance (no need for statutory returns or audited accounts) which is usually recoverable via subscriptions or donations. Developmental support is free as are charitable templates to support set up. If further funding is needed, WCAVA could support the securing of this.

WCAVA will incorporate exploring alternative funding opportunities into the dedicated workshop on RBC grants, which they co-host with RBC officers to support applicants. This will be via a Zoom meeting, which will be recorded, allowing it to be shared on both the WCAVA and RBC websites, to enable people to learn more about opportunities at a time that suits them.

By making the funding pots less rigid, and more outcome focused, there is an increased opportunity for groups to be more creative on their bids and for the appeal of the grants to extend to a wider audience of potential applicants than in previous years.

6.0 Rugby Lotto

Proceeds from the Rugby Lotto are a flexible income source for the voluntary and community sector in Rugby, generating almost £60,000 for good causes in its first two years of operation.

The Lotto will be promoted more extensively to would be grants applicants as part of the grants process for 2021-22. Indeed, those qualifying groups that subsequently apply for grant, and produce the required supporting documentation will be offered the chance to fast-track to become a good cause of the Lotto. They will just need to confirm that they wish to opt in.

7.0 Proposed timeline for the grants programme 2021/22

There will be some lead in time required to update documents and electronic processes arising from the decision of Council, ahead of the grants going live in July 2021. The closing date for applications will be 3 September 2021.

There will follow a period of due diligence work to assess applications, ahead of their consideration by the meetings of the Grants Working Party on 13 and 14 October 2021.

The recommendations of the Grants Working Party will be considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 8 November 2021.

8.0 Conclusion

The review has come up with recommendations that:

- ensure that the grants programme will align with and contribute to achieving the desired outcomes set out in the new corporate strategy.

- is responsive to issues of hardship that have been identified by customer-facing services.

- promote innovation in ideas by removing the ring-fencing of funds into specific pots.

Name of Meeting: Council

Date of Meeting: 17 June 2021

Subject Matter: Grants Review 2021-22

Originating Department: Please select

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY   ☐ **YES**   ☐ **NO**

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink
Appx 1	TOR grants review
Appx 2	Equality Impact Assessment
Appx 3	VCS consultation survey
Appx 4	VCS consultation summary of feedback

The background papers relating to reports on planning applications and which are open to public inspection under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, consist of the planning applications, referred to in the reports, and all written responses to consultations made by the Local Planning Authority, in connection with those applications.

☐ Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

Doc No	Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A

Draft TOR for the Grants Review Group 2021-22

TOR was agreed on the initial meeting on 10th February

The appointed working group is formed to conduct a strategic review of the community grants programme commissioned via RBC

The review provides opportunity to:

- Ensure the grants are aligned to the objectives of the corporate strategy and recovery plan, as well as the corporate equality objectives

- Ensure that the grants programme reflects the needs of our communities

- Make most effective use of limited resources

- Avoid duplication of funding opportunities

- Encourage participation of a broader range of organisations

- Engage with the VCS through consultation

- Support the VCS to identify appropriate funding opportunities and reduced reliance on RBC support*

The application process and verification process are specifically excluded from this review, as this has already been completed, resulting in the current digital application process.

The review will start in January 2021 and aim to conclude by June 2021, with a report submitted to Cabinet in June July (the new municipal meeting dates for 2021 are to be confirmed)

this was suggested by WCAVA , who were consulted when drafting the proposed TOR

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)

Context

1. The Public Sector Equality Duty as set out under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires Rugby Borough Council when making decisions to have due regard to the following:
   - eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and other conduct prohibited by the Act,
   - advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not,
   - fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

2. The characteristics protected by the Equality Act are:
   - age
   - disability
   - gender reassignment
   - marriage/civil partnership
   - pregnancy/maternity
   - race
   - religion/belief
   - sex/gender
   - sexual orientation

3. In addition to the above-protected characteristics, you should consider the crosscutting elements of the proposed policy, such as impact on social inequalities and impact on carers who look after older people or people with disabilities as part of this assessment.

4. The Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) document is a tool that enables RBC to test and analyse the nature and impact of what it is currently doing or is planning to do in the future. It can be used flexibly for reviewing existing arrangements but in particular should enable identification where further consultation, engagement and data is required.

5. The questions will enable you to record your findings.

6. Where the EqIA relates to a continuing project, it must be reviewed and updated at each stage of the decision.

7. Once completed and signed off the EqIA will be published online.

8. An EqIA must accompany all **Key Decisions** and **Cabinet Reports**.

9. For further information, refer to the EqIA guidance for staff.

10. For advice and support, contact:
    Minakshee Patel
    Corporate Equality & Diversity Advisor
    minakshee.patel@rugby.gov.uk
    Tel: 01788 533509

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area	Communities & Homes
Policy/Service being assessed	Grants Review 2021/22
Is this is a new or existing policy/service? **If existing policy/service please state date of last assessment**	Review of existing grants programme to ensure that the funding streams align to the delivery of the priorities outlined in the new corporate strategy.
EqIA Review team – List of members	Michelle Dickson and Minakshee Patel
Date of this assessment	13 May 2021
Signature of responsible officer (to be signed after the EqIA has been completed)	Michelle Dickson

A copy of this Equality Impact Assessment report, including relevant data and information to be forwarded to the Corporate Equality & Diversity Advisor.

If you require help, advice and support to complete the forms, please contact Minakshee Patel, Corporate Equality & Diversity Advisor via email: minakshee.patel@rugby.gov.uk or 01788 533509

Details of Strategy/ Service/ Policy to be analysed

Stage 1 – Scoping and Defining	
(1) Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the Strategy/Service/Policy (or decision)?	In January 2021, Cabinet approved the review of the grants programme to ensure that funding is aligned to delivering the priority outcomes in the corporate strategy. Delegated authority was given to the Head of Communities and Homes to establish a Cabinet-led cross-party Working Group to agree terms of reference and undertake the review. The review group comprised Cllrs Crane; O'Rourke and Mrs Rodhouse, Raj Chand and Michelle Dickson
(2) How does it fit with Rugby Borough Council's Corporate priorities and your service area priorities?	• Enable our residents to live healthy, independent lives • Prioritise use of resources to meet changing customer needs and demands • Understand our communities and enable people to take an active part in them • Encourage healthy and active lifestyles to improve wellbeing in the borough
(3) What are the expected outcomes you are hoping to achieve?	• Ensure the grants meet the needs of our communities, by aligning them to the objectives of the corporate strategy and recovery plan, as well as the corporate equality objectives • Encourage participation of a broader range of organisations, • Engage with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) through consultation • Support the VCS to identify appropriate funding opportunities, encourage self-sufficiency and reduced reliance on RBC support

(4)Does or will the policy or decision affect: - Customers - Employees - Wider community or groups	Will positively impact on VCS. By removing the traditional ring fencing between the grant pots, which were very prescriptive, resulting in under-allocation of grants for some areas, we are encouraging a broader range of groups to apply for grants. The increase of the maximum level of funding for community projects from £2,000 to £3,000 will also potentially encourage more groups to apply. However there is an acknowledgement that this will also reflect a more realistic cost for groups due to ongoing covid compliance.
<u>Stage 2 - Information Gathering</u>	As a minimum you must consider what is known about the population likely to be affected which will support your understanding of the impact of the policy, eg service uptake/usage, customer satisfaction surveys, staffing data, performance data, research information (national, regional and local data sources).
(1) What does the information tell you about those groups identified?	The grants programme is open to most groups in the VCS. However, there is a requirement that their projects will help to deliver the key outcomes of the corporate strategy. The exceptions are: - organisations outside of Rugby - schools and academies - statutory and profit making organisations - political organisations - Individual (other than individual artists who engage communities in creative activities) Projects for the delivery of the following will not be considered: - religious activities - promotion of religion / religious belied - are associated with pollical activities - promote political activities

(2) Have you consulted or involved those groups that are likely to be affected by the strategy/ service/policy you want to implement? If yes, what were their views and how have their views influenced your decision?	We consulted with the VCS ref our plans to tie the grants back to the corporate strategy. Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA) assisted with this and in doing so we reached out to over 400 groups with 46 responses, which WCAVA advised was a healthy response for a survey of this size. • 46 people participated in the survey. • 83% of respondents agree with aligning our community grants to the objectives in our Corporate Strategy. • 96% of respondents agree that community grants support residents to lead active lifestyles with high quality green spaces and recreational facilities. The remaining 4% of respondents neither agree nor disagree. • 96% of respondents agree that community grants promote, encourage, and celebrate inclusion to ensure Rugby is a place where everyone feels welcome. The remaining 4% of respondents neither agree nor disagree. • 91% of respondents agree that community grants make residents proud of their community and borough. • 91% of respondents agree that our community grants meet local needs, with a focus on early intervention. Additional comments centred around issues outside of the immediate focus of the review have informed a strategy for supporting groups who are less confident with the digital process. Refer to 7 ref steps taken in response.
(3) If you have not consulted or engaged with communities that are likely to be affected by the policy or decision, give details about when you intend to carry out consultation or provide reasons for why you feel this is not necessary.	Na
Stage 3 – Analysis of impact	

(1)Protected Characteristics From your data and consultations is there any positive, adverse or negative impact	**RACE** No	**DISABILITY** **No**	**GENDER** **No**

identified for any particular group, which could amount to discrimination?	**MARRIAGE/CIVIL PARTNERSHIP** No	**AGE** **No**	**GENDER REASSIGNMENT** **No**
If yes, identify the groups and how they are affected.	**RELIGION/BELIEF** No	**PREGNANCY MATERNITY** **No**	**SEXUAL ORIENTATION** **No**

(2) Cross cutting themes	a) applicants must demonstrate how their projects will contribute to tackling the following issues:
(a) Are your proposals likely to impact on social inequalities e.g. child poverty, geographically disadvantaged communities? If yes, please explain how? (b) Are your proposals likely to impact on a carer who looks after older people or people with disabilities? If yes, please explain how?	• Helping to tackle climate change and nature loss (for example, projects which contribute to tree-planting, nature conservation, edible gardens, reducing carbon emissions and encouraging recycling and repairing) • Encouraging exercise and physical wellbeing (for example projects which encourage sports, fitness and play activities) • Financial and digital inclusion – (for example projects which help people to increase their confidence with digital technology or in managing their finances) • Tackling loneliness and isolation for all generations (for example community arts projects and play activities) • Education and training to narrow the skills gaps in our communities (for example projects which help people to learn new skills or brush up on existing ones) • Access to healthy foods and cooking (for example cooking for fun sessions for families to learn about preparing fresh meals and meal planning) • Helping people to access green spaces for well-being (for example converting small pieces of land into something that the community can enjoy) It should be noted that the examples provided above are just that and are not intended as an exhaustive list of what will be considered for funding. The aim is to encourage innovative ideas which will deliver these outcomes for communities b) Cannot say until the applications are submitted. However, this will be covered in the resulting EIA which will accompany the report to Cabinet ref the allocation of approved grants.

(3) If there is an adverse impact, can this be justified?	Na
(4) What actions are going to be taken to reduce or eliminate negative or adverse impact? (this should form part of your action plan under Stage 4.)	Na
(5) How does the strategy/service/policy contribute to the promotion of equality? If not what can be done?	The Rural Development Fund acknowledges the challenges that are faced by our rural communities, particularly older people, in terms of sustaining community infrastructure, play provision and the like.
(6) How does the strategy/service/policy promote good relations between groups? If not what can be done?	The grants guidance notes will make it clear that small groups that are not constituted, but want to deliver one-off small projects will be welcome to partner up with a group that does have all of the required policies and insurances in place to safely deliver a project. The resulting bid will need to be submitted by the umbrella group.
(7) Are there any obvious barriers to accessing the service? If yes how can they be overcome?	There was a mixed view on the digital process of application – which was outside of the scope of the review. However, WCAVA will be doing sessions to support such groups. There will also be a wider workshop ahead of that as advice for applicants. his will incorporate advice on the role of WCABA and how they can support with governance and securing grant from other funders. Users of MAC technology did mention that they do struggle to upload documents to support their application. This is a known issue with the current platform being used to host the application process. The good news is that this will be resolved when the council migrates to a new platform which is scheduled to go live ahead of the new grants application process going live.
Stage 4 – Action Planning, Review & Monitoring	

If No Further Action is required then go to – Review & Monitoring (1)Action Planning – Specify any changes or improvements that can be made to the service or policy to mitigate or eradicate negative or adverse impact on specific groups, including resource implications.	EqIA Action Plan				
	Action	**Lead Officer**	**Date for completion**	**Resource requirements**	**Comments**
	N/a				
(2) Review and Monitoring State how and when you will monitor policy and Action Plan	We will be monitoring the successfully funded projects to ensure completion and also to get feedback as to the process to inform future service improvements.				

Please annotate your policy with the following statement:

'An Equality Impact Assessment on this policy was undertaken on (date of assessment) and will be reviewed on (insert review date).'

Appendix 3

Rugby Borough Council's Community Grants Review

Rugby Borough Council has launched a review of its Community Projects Grants and Rural Development Fund to ensure voluntary and community organisations can deliver projects which focus on the borough's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and support the council's new Corporate Strategy.

The Corporate Strategy outlines the council's overarching priorities for 2021-2024.

[View the Corporate Strategy on Rugby Borough Council's website](#).

Thank you for taking part in this survey. Your feedback helps us to ensure our grants target the needs of our communities.

1. Let us know whether you agree or disagree with aligning our community grants to the following objectives in our Corporate Strategy.

Make sure our communities are safe

- ☐ *Strongly agree*

- ☐ *Agree*

- ☐ *Neither agree nor disagree*

- ☐ *Disagree*

- ☐ *Strongly disagree*

2. Make sure residents are proud of their community and borough

- ☐ *Strongly agree*

- ☐ *Agree*

- ☐ *Neither agree nor disagree*

- ☐ *Disagree*

- ☐ *Strongly disagree*

3. Meet local needs, with a focus on early intervention

- ☐ *Strongly agree*

☐ *Agree*

☐ *Neither agree nor disagree*

☐ *Disagree*

☐ *Strongly disagree*

4. Support residents who are, or are at risk of becoming, homeless or rough sleepers

☐ *Strongly agree*

☐ *Agree*

☐ *Neither agree nor disagree*

☐ *Disagree*

☐ *Strongly disagree*

5. Support residents to lead active lifestyles with high quality green spaces and recreational facilities

☐ *Strongly agree*

☐ *Agree*

☐ *Neither agree nor disagree*

☐ *Disagree*

☐ *Strongly disagree*

6. Promote, encourage and celebrate inclusion to ensure Rugby is a place where everyone feels welcome

☐ *Strongly agree*

☐ *Agree*

☐ *Neither agree nor disagree*

☐ *Disagree*

☐ *Strongly disagree*

7. Let us know whether you agree or disagree with aligning our community grants to the following equality and diversity objectives.

Improve how the council engages with communities, partners and customers

☐ *Strongly agree*

☐ *Agree*

☐ *Neither agree nor disagree*

☐ *Disagree*

☐ *Strongly disagree*

8. Develop and foster good relations between different groups and communities

☐ *Strongly agree*

☐ *Agree*

☐ *Neither agree nor disagree*

☐ *Disagree*

☐ *Strongly disagree*

9. Let us know what you think about the council's current community grants scheme by telling us whether you agree or disagree with the following:

The council's community grants programme delivers projects which reflect the needs of our communities

☐ *Strongly agree*

☐ *Agree*

☐ *Neither agree nor disagree*

☐ *Disagree*

☐ *Strongly disagree*

10. The council's community grants programme makes the most effective use of limited resources for the community and voluntary sector

☐ *Strongly agree*

☐ *Agree*

☐ *Neither agree nor disagree*

☐ *Disagree*

☐ *Strongly disagree*

11. The council's community grants programme is not a duplication of other funding opportunities

☐ *Strongly agree*

☐ *Agree*

☐ *Neither agree nor disagree*

☐ *Disagree*

☐ *Strongly disagree*

12. The council is effective in encouraging a broader range of organisations to apply for a community grant

☐ *Strongly agree*

☐ *Agree*

☐ *Neither agree nor disagree*

☐ *Disagree*

☐ *Strongly disagree*

13. The council engages effectively with the voluntary and community sector through consultation

☐ *Strongly agree*

☐ *Agree*

☐ *Neither agree nor disagree*

☐ *Disagree*

☐ *Strongly disagree*

14. Finally, we would appreciate your feedback on the following questions.

**Do you access the support of WCAVA to identify funding opportunities?**

15. If not, why not?

16. Can you describe your experience of the current council community grants application process?

- 46 people participated in the survey.

- 83% of respondents agree with aligning our community grants to the objectives in our Corporate Strategy.

- 96% of respondents agree that community grants support residents to lead active lifestyles with high quality green spaces and recreational facilities. The remaining 4% of respondents neither agree nor disagree.

- 96% of respondents agree that community grants promote, encourage, and celebrate inclusion to ensure Rugby is a place where everyone feels welcome. The remaining 4% of respondents neither agree nor disagree.

- 91% of respondents agree that community grants make residents proud of their community and borough.

- 91% of respondents agree that our community grants meet local needs, with a focus on early intervention.

- 43% of respondents neither agree nor disagree, and 11% of respondents disagree that the council is effective in encouraging a broader range of organisations to apply for a community grant.

Appendix 4

Q1 Let us know whether you agree or disagree with aligning our community grants to the following objectives in our Corporate Strategy.Make sure our communities are safe

Answered: 46   Skipped: 0
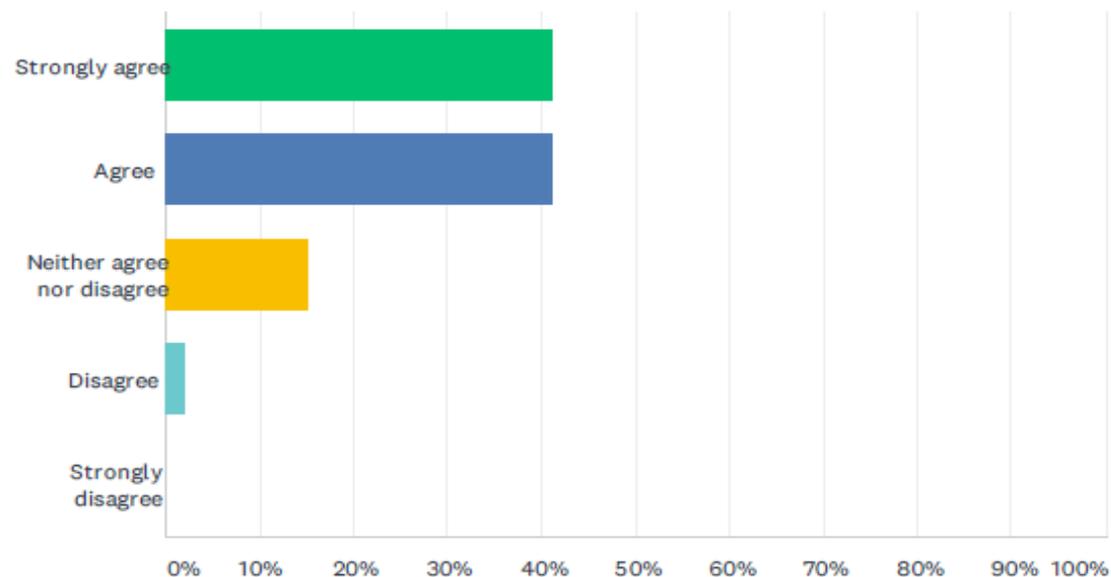
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	41.30%	19
Agree	41.30%	19
Neither agree nor disagree	15.22%	7
Disagree	2.17%	1
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 46		

2

Q2 Make sure residents are proud of their community and borough

Answered: 46   Skipped: 0
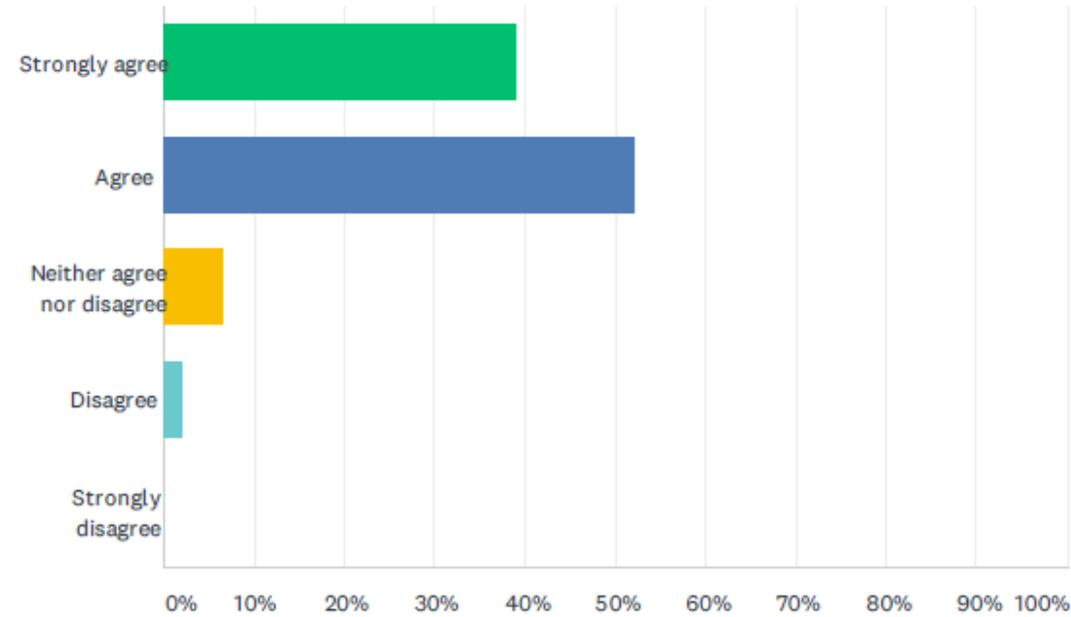
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	39.13%	18
Agree	52.17%	24
Neither agree nor disagree	6.52%	3
Disagree	2.17%	1
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 46		

3

Q3 Meet local needs, with a focus on early intervention

Answered: 45   Skipped: 1
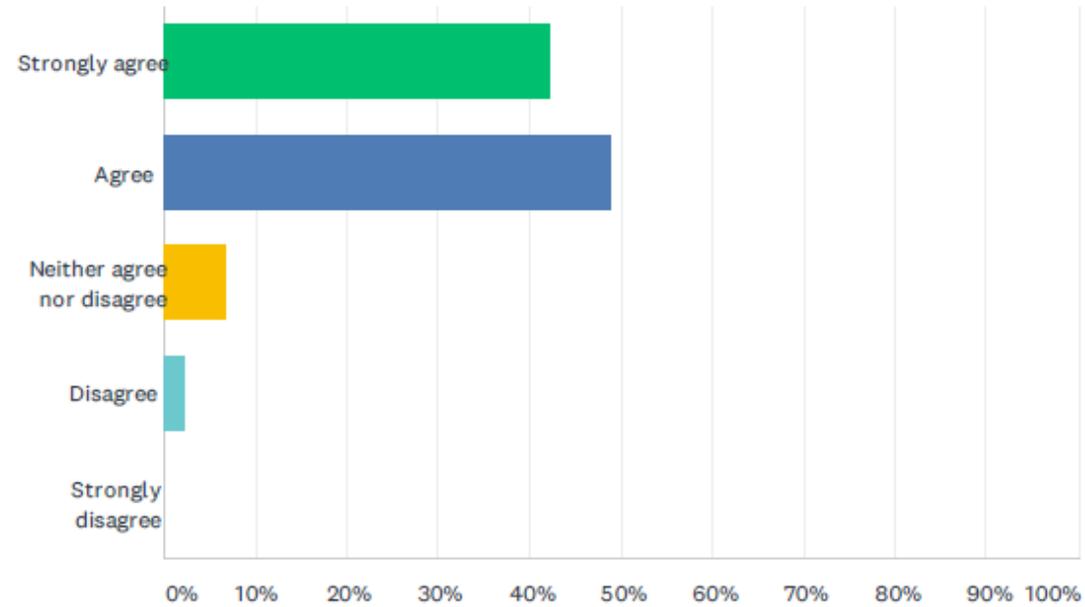
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	42.22%	19
Agree	48.89%	22
Neither agree nor disagree	6.67%	3
Disagree	2.22%	1
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 45		

Q4 Support residents who are, or are at risk of becoming, homeless or rough sleepers

Answered: 46   Skipped: 0
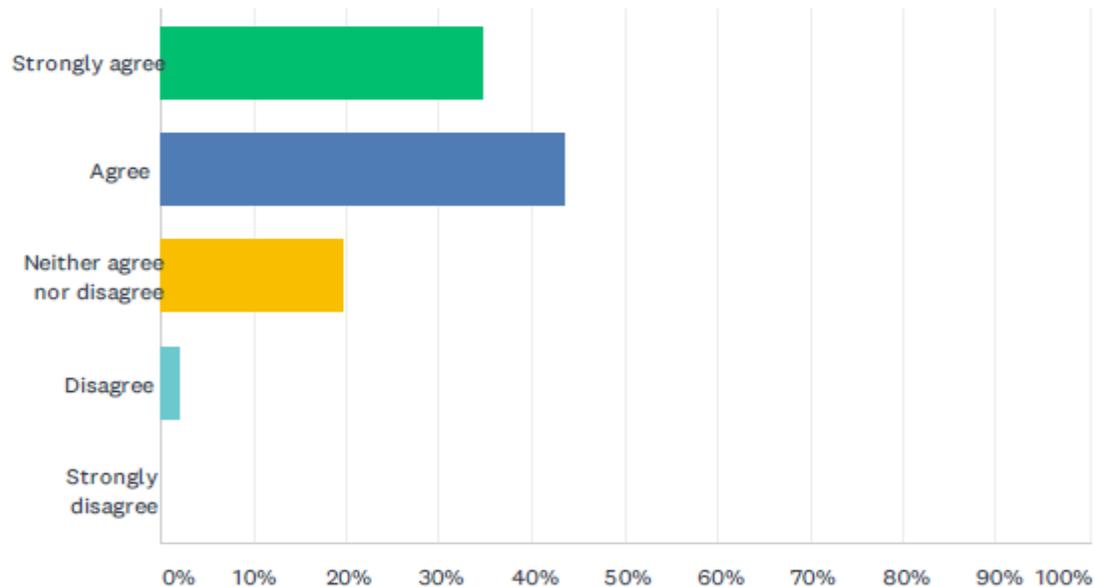
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	34.78%	16
Agree	43.48%	20
Neither agree nor disagree	19.57%	9
Disagree	2.17%	1
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 46		

5

Q5 Support residents to lead active lifestyles with high quality green spaces and recreational facilities

Answered: 46   Skipped: 0
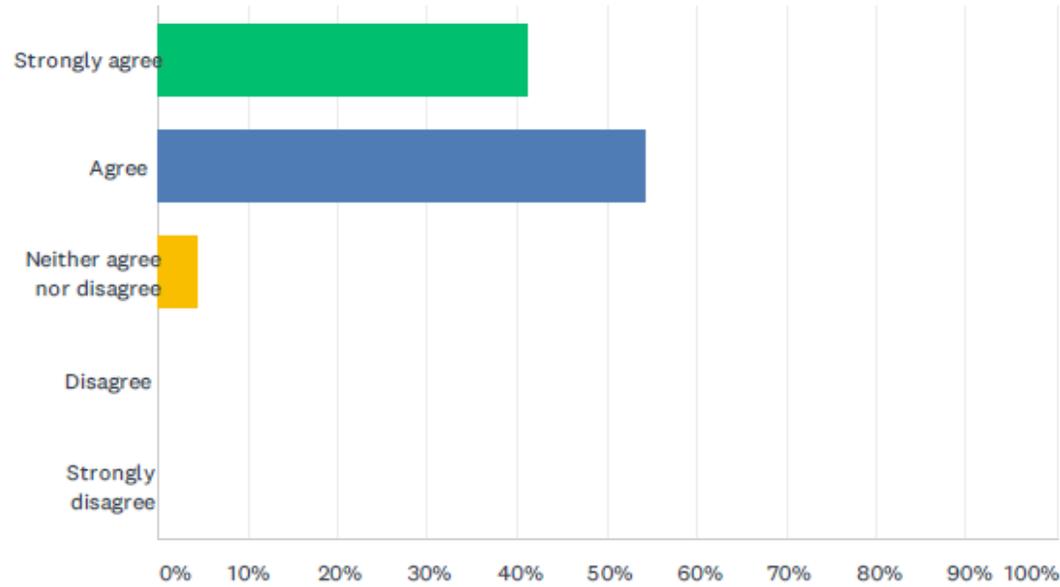
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	41.30%	19
Agree	54.35%	25
Neither agree nor disagree	4.35%	2
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 46		

Q6 Promote, encourage and celebrate inclusion to ensure Rugby is a place where everyone feels welcome

Answered: 46   Skipped: 0
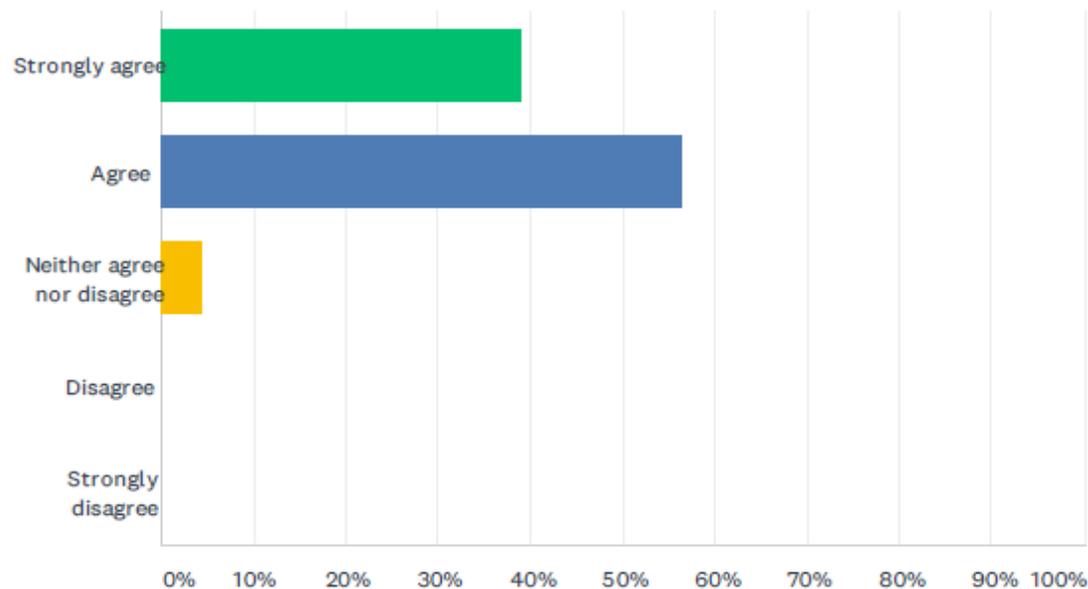
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	39.13%	18
Agree	56.52%	26
Neither agree nor disagree	4.35%	2
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 46		

Q7 Let us know whether you agree or disagree with aligning our community grants to the following equality and diversity objectives.Improve how the council engages with communities, partners and customers

Answered: 46   Skipped: 0
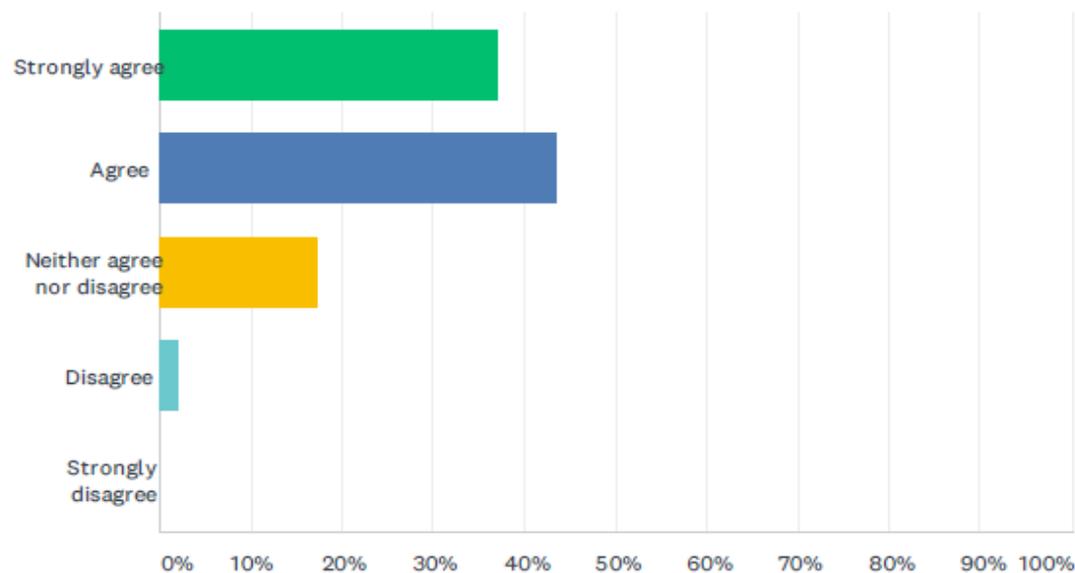
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	36.96%	17
Agree	43.48%	20
Neither agree nor disagree	17.39%	8
Disagree	2.17%	1
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 46		

Q8 Develop and foster good relations between different groups and communities

Answered: 46   Skipped: 0
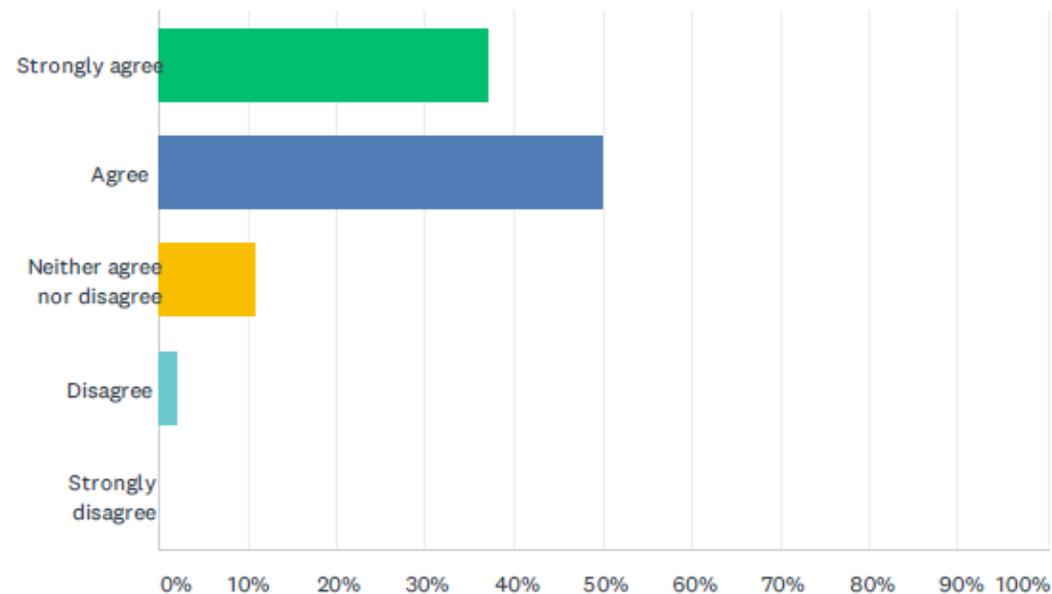
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	36.96%	17
Agree	50.00%	23
Neither agree nor disagree	10.87%	5
Disagree	2.17%	1
Strongly disagree	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 46		

RUGBY

Q9 Let us know what you think about the council's current community grants scheme by telling us whether you agree or disagree with the following:The council's community grants programme delivers projects which reflect the needs of our communities

Answered: 46   Skipped: 0
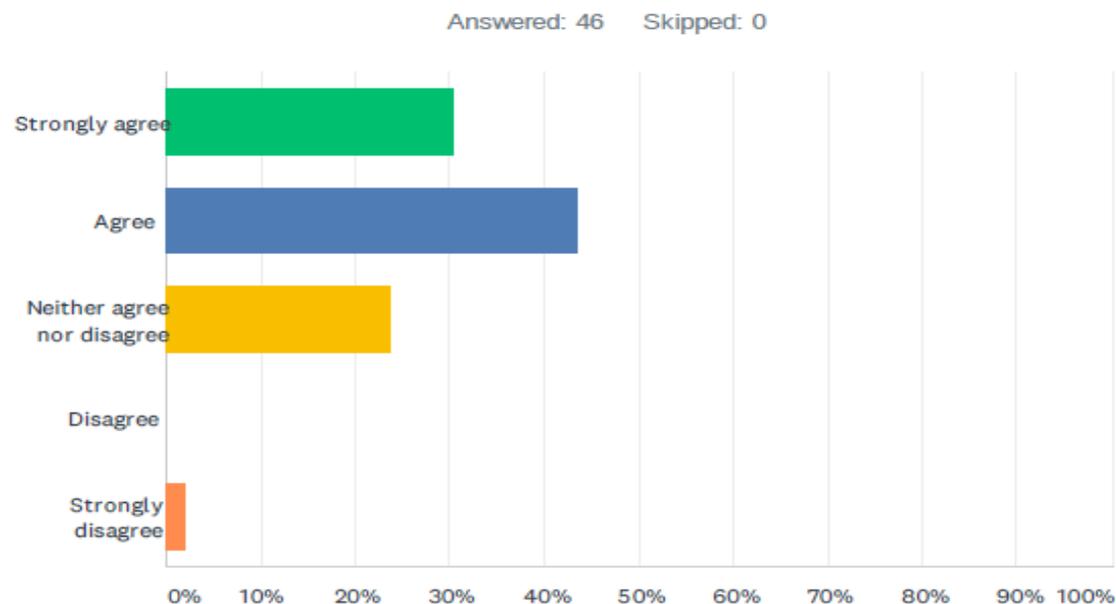
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	30.43%	14
Agree	43.48%	20
Neither agree nor disagree	23.91%	11
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	2.17%	1
Total Respondents: 46		

Q10 The council's community grants programme makes the most effective use of limited resources for the community and voluntary sector

Answered: 46   Skipped: 0
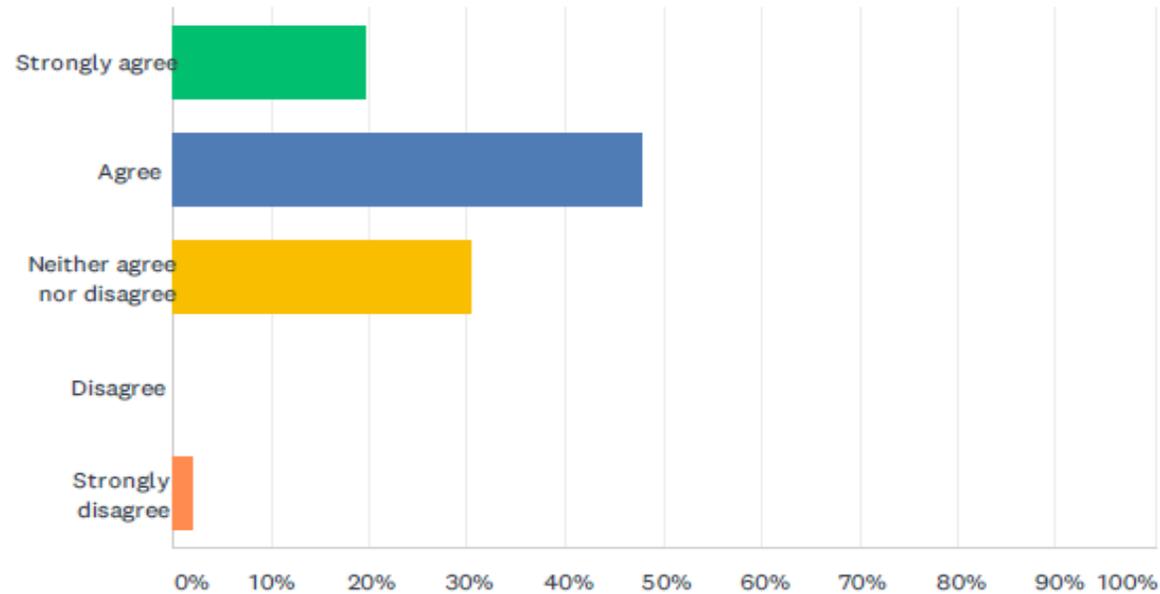
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	19.57%	9
Agree	47.83%	22
Neither agree nor disagree	30.43%	14
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly disagree	2.17%	1
Total Respondents: 46		

11

Q11 The council's community grants programme is not a duplication of other funding opportunities

Answered: 46   Skipped: 0
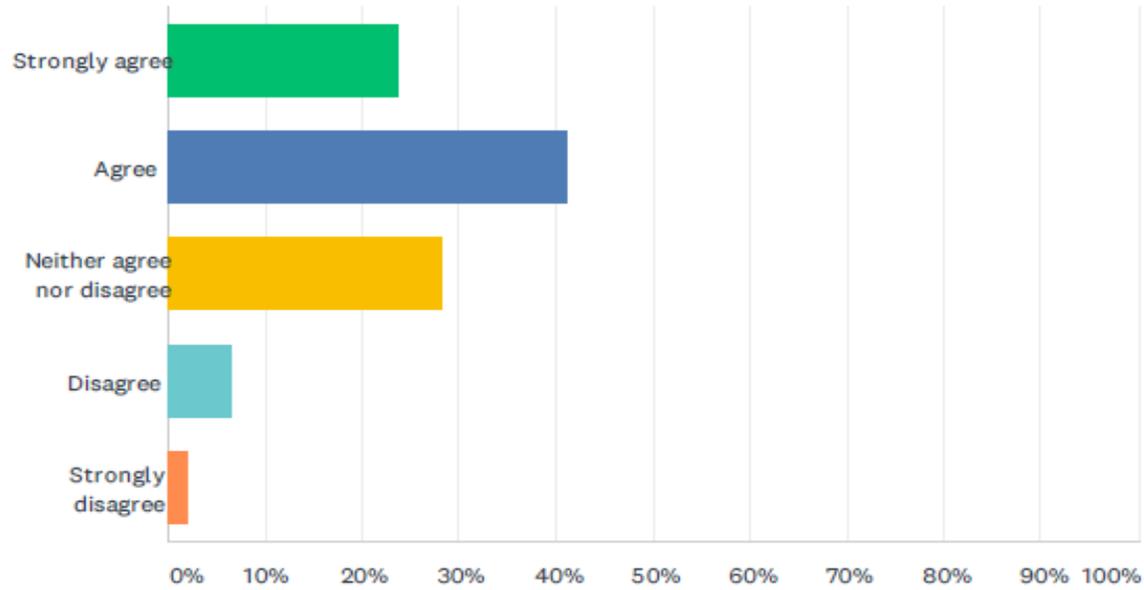
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	23.91%	11
Agree	41.30%	19
Neither agree nor disagree	28.26%	13
Disagree	6.52%	3
Strongly disagree	2.17%	1
Total Respondents: 46		

12

Q12 The council is effective in encouraging a broader range of organisations to apply for a community grant

Answered: 46   Skipped: 0
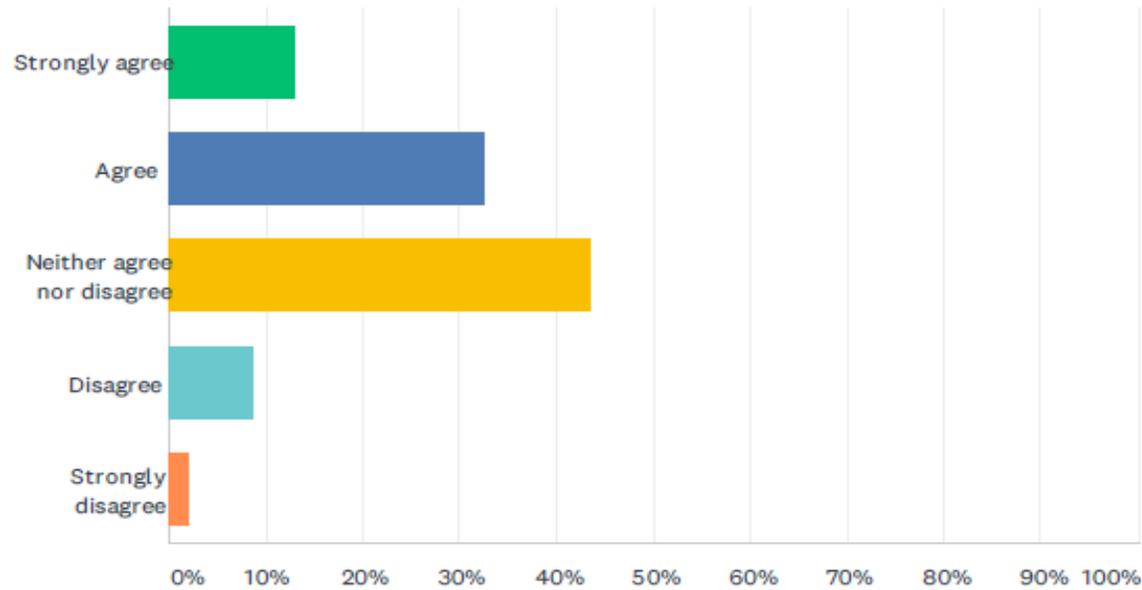
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	13.04%	6
Agree	32.61%	15
Neither agree nor disagree	43.48%	20
Disagree	8.70%	4
Strongly disagree	2.17%	1
Total Respondents: 46		

Q13 The council engages effectively with the voluntary and community sector through consultation

Answered: 46   Skipped: 0
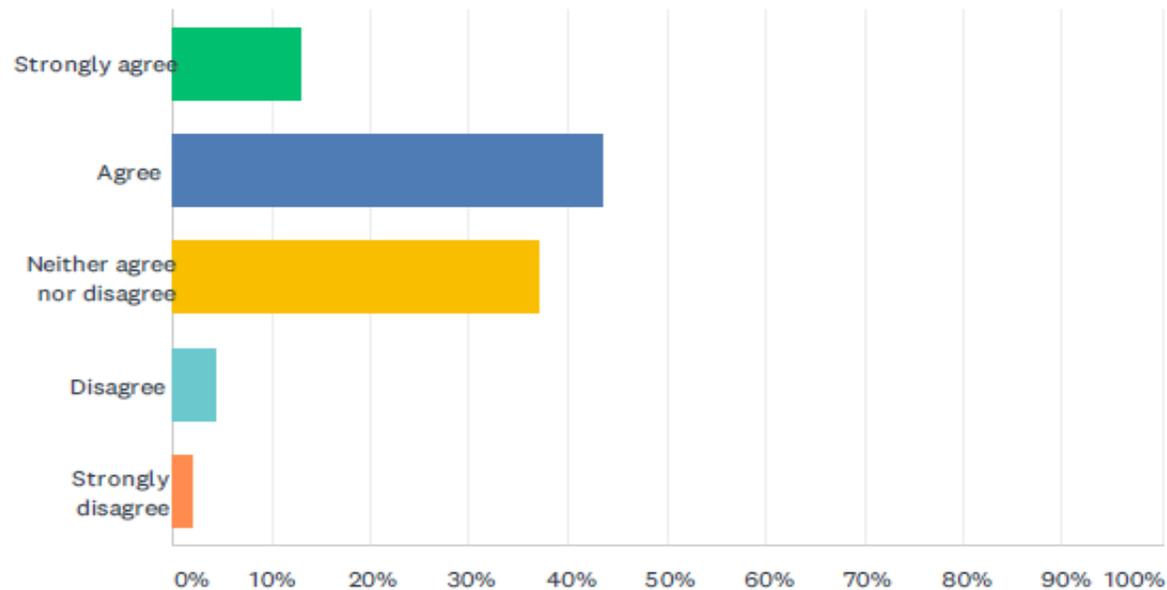
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	13.04%	6
Agree	43.48%	20
Neither agree nor disagree	36.96%	17
Disagree	4.35%	2
Strongly disagree	2.17%	1
Total Respondents: 46		

14

Q14 Finally, we would appreciate your feedback on the following questions.Do you access the support of WCAVA to identify funding opportunities?

Answered: 43   Skipped: 4

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	At times	3/30/2021 11:40 AM
2	yes	3/18/2021 11:08 AM
3	Yes	3/17/2021 5:43 PM
4	No	3/16/2021 8:41 PM
5	yes	3/16/2021 5:38 PM
6	Sometimes	3/16/2021 5:37 PM
7	No	3/13/2021 3:47 PM
8	Not for identifying funding opportunities, as we are pretty informed about those but have contacted WCAVA when completing grant applications in the past.	3/13/2021 9:11 AM
9	Occassionally	3/12/2021 4:38 PM
10	Yes	3/10/2021 6:13 PM
11	Not very often	3/10/2021 10:00 AM
12	I am not sure,	3/6/2021 6:43 PM
13	yes	3/5/2021 11:32 AM
14	Yes, we find their services very valuable	3/4/2021 10:46 PM
15	No	3/4/2021 10:00 PM
16	Yes. I have experience of bidding for funding; checked with WCAVA;provided excellent, accurate costing info; all for the community - told it was viable and got nothing.	3/4/2021 7:35 PM
17	Yes have done on a number of occasions	3/4/2021 3:42 PM
18	Yes I do, but as a Parish Councillor, I am not so sure if I would be aware and have the same opportunities	3/4/2021 8:52 AM
19	No	3/3/2021 2:27 PM
20	no	3/3/2021 12:04 PM
21	Have done in the past	3/3/2021 11:45 AM
22	Yes because it is a source of information, however a search engine will produce a wider spectrum of results	3/3/2021 11:08 AM
23	Yes and I have another meeting with Phoebe today	3/3/2021 10:25 AM
24	Yes	3/2/2021 9:43 PM
25	No	3/2/2021 7:22 PM
26	Yes	3/2/2021 7:12 PM
27	No	3/2/2021 4:55 PM
28	yes	3/2/2021 4:28 PM
29	I'm unsure	3/2/2021 4:07 PM
30	Not at present	3/2/2021 3:03 PM
31	I sought help from the WCAVA during the grant application process but not at the moment	3/2/2021 2:59 PM
32	Sometimes we apply for grants highlighted in WCAVA grapevine or funding updates.	3/2/2021 2:55 PM
33	Don't know what this is?	3/2/2021 2:48 PM
34	NO.	3/2/2021 2:43 PM
35	I have done but did not get any help.	3/2/2021 2:32 PM
36	No, I have received information from Rugby BC and other support from the sports national/ regional organisation.	3/2/2021 2:14 PM
37	NO	3/2/2021 2:11 PM
38	We have found that WCAVA is not always that good at giving the voluntary sector what they need to thrive--we do use their grant newsletter each quarter, but often use our own resources to find appropriate funding. We have used WCAVA to advertise for volunteers and trustees but have never been successful through that offer.	3/2/2021 1:58 PM
39	no	3/2/2021 1:19 PM
40	Yes	3/2/2021 1:03 PM
41	Yes	3/2/2021 12:58 PM
42	Yes	3/2/2021 12:55 PM
43	Yes. They are very informative and helpful.	3/2/2021 12:41 PM

Q15 If not, why not?

Answered: 28   Skipped: 19

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	n/a	3/30/2021 11:40 AM
2	Not applicable	3/17/2021 5:43 PM
3	Not sure what it is	3/16/2021 8:41 PM
4	We do	3/16/2021 5:37 PM
5	na	3/13/2021 9:11 AM
6	N/A	3/10/2021 6:13 PM
7	I know the resource is there if/when I need it. I attend their occasional webinars/forums/events to keep up to date	3/10/2021 10:00 AM
8	No one has contacted us regarding it.	3/6/2021 6:43 PM
9	na	3/5/2021 11:32 AM
10	I am not sure what they do or how they can help	3/4/2021 10:00 PM
11	Not applicable	3/4/2021 3:42 PM
12	I am not aware of our club having used WCAVA funding opportunities, so the committee may not know that these opportunities exist.	3/3/2021 2:27 PM
13	what is WCAVA	3/3/2021 12:04 PM
14	N/a	3/3/2021 10:25 AM
15	Something we should look at	3/2/2021 7:22 PM
16	Unfamiliar with their activity or purpose	3/2/2021 4:55 PM
17	we do	3/2/2021 4:28 PM
18	WCAVA is an acronym of what?	3/2/2021 4:07 PM
19	No project requiring funding at present	3/2/2021 3:03 PM
20	?	3/2/2021 2:48 PM
21	May do so in the future though	3/2/2021 2:43 PM
22	Support from the sports national organisation and will need to sign up to WCAVA to ensure regular communications.	3/2/2021 2:14 PM
23	Have not known to do so	3/2/2021 2:11 PM
24	We don't actually know why not--maybe those wishing to volunteer do not know WCAVA?	3/2/2021 1:58 PM
25	Dont know what it is	3/2/2021 1:19 PM
26	N/A	3/2/2021 1:03 PM
27	NA	3/2/2021 12:58 PM
28	NA	3/2/2021 12:55 PM

RUGBY

Q16 Can you describe your experience of the current council community grants application process?

Answered: 36   Skipped: 11

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Process was easy to follow and responses received in a timely manner.	3/30/2021 11:40 AM
2	Funding support/training is available aplenty, whether in-house WCAVA or hosting funding seminars with large donors eg. The Big Lottery, Heart of England and so on. I like a recent scheme where small grants arre available to support organisations with writing funding bids and for bid writing trainng.	3/17/2021 5:43 PM
3	Fairly straightforward, although haven't applied for a couple of years	3/16/2021 8:41 PM
4	for covid good,not so good before	3/16/2021 5:38 PM
5	Easy to use	3/16/2021 5:37 PM
6	Fine now I've done a few.	3/13/2021 9:11 AM
7	The experience has been fairly seamless with good support and advice where needed across the application process	3/12/2021 4:38 PM
8	N/A	3/10/2021 6:13 PM
9	I would be happier if the process encouraged more diverse groups. They do exist but lack of start up funds is a real barrier. Parishes are pretty good at accessing funds as appropriate, but its much harder in the more urban areas. Community development at a neighbourhood level would be good. There are some very good micro groups working in and around Rugby - support that replicates them would be a good approach for a defined percentage of the funding available. Then tried and tested initiatives can be rolled out.	3/10/2021 10:00 AM
10	They grants need to be advertised and promoted more effectively.	3/6/2021 6:43 PM
11	Frustrating - I think it should be possible to get a "preferred provider" status which would mean a successful audit of policies, procedures etc. which would have the dual benefit of putting voluntary organisations on a solid basis and removing the need to repeat loads of info every time an application is made. Of course applications could still be made from "none preferred" organisations	3/5/2021 11:32 AM
12	The in-line process means we have to rely on one person who is computer literate. We are not sure what we would do if he left our group.	3/4/2021 10:46 PM
13	When I applied for a small Youth and Play Grant in 2018, it seemed a very time consuming process, on both sides, considering the sum involved.	3/4/2021 10:00 PM
14	Involved; overly complicated and didn't give opportunity for describing the whole picture of the project.	3/4/2021 7:35 PM
15	Found the application process to be relatively simple and response times acceptable. All in all from my experience it worked well.	3/4/2021 3:42 PM
16	A bit of a nightmare, very complex and long winded and having a Mac my documents were not acceptable for loading, but the system does not tell you why or that they are not suitable	3/4/2021 8:52 AM
17	Very helpful RBC staff when completing the application (some technical difficulties quickly resolved and queries about the process promptly answered). Good follow up since the grant was received although our project has been delayed due to Covid.	3/3/2021 2:27 PM

RUGBY

19	I found the process relatively simple however the turn around time was quite lengthy considering the size of grants. I am assuming at the time there was a significant number of applications. Perhaps doing a couple of funding rounds per year splitting the allocated pot might speed up the turn around time.	3/3/2021 10:25 AM
20	Much harder to secure in relation to the amount of money than grants from other funders	3/2/2021 9:43 PM
21	Hard work, questions repeat themselves	3/2/2021 7:22 PM
22	As expected	3/2/2021 4:55 PM
23	positive experience	3/2/2021 4:28 PM
24	Not good since it is an online application only now. I prefer the option of filling in by hand	3/2/2021 4:07 PM
25	Very straight foreward	3/2/2021 3:03 PM
26	I found the application process to be incredibly time consuming and often required repetition of information. New sections of the application would appear after other sections were completed making it difficult to plan and prepare the required information at each stage. The questions were quite ambiguous and at times challenging to understand. The application process is best suited for organisations, businesses and groups rather than individuals.	3/2/2021 2:59 PM
27	We have not applied for some time due to either or a combination of issues that include - not meeting the criteria, rather large application form for very little return, previous unsuccessful applications.	3/2/2021 2:55 PM
28	Fully satisfied with the grants application process and extremely pleased with the grant Caldecott Park Bowling club received.	3/2/2021 2:48 PM
29	On the whole, fairly straight forward.	3/2/2021 2:43 PM
30	difficult	3/2/2021 2:32 PM
31	It was generally good but the online application form had issues. There was a question near the end that was n/a but I couldn't proceed unless I answered it. I had to enter something or else the finished form couldn't be submitted. Lots of information required that was not directly related to the project funding request; although I appreciate you have to ensure organisations are well run and meeting legislative requirements.	3/2/2021 2:14 PM
32	Complicated	3/2/2021 2:11 PM
33	While it is okay for us as a constituted organisation, we are aware that smaller community groups find it difficult to apply for funding. The online application process is not made easy for either us or others, who, for example, have to upload documents--even we find this difficult and often have problems uploading with applications being rejected.	3/2/2021 1:58 PM
34	Forms are complicated and long. Although i understand the necessity to obtain correct information and practice due diligence when allocating funds	3/2/2021 1:19 PM
35	Needs to be as straightforward as possible and proportionate for the amount of grant to be awarded/sought	3/2/2021 12:58 PM
36	We have completed a number of bids for funding, the process is quite detailed and sometimes the wording of the requirements is difficult to follow. Communication and feedback however has been really good.	3/2/2021 12:55 PM

Community Grants Review – Narrative Responses

1. Accessing the support of WCAVA to identify funding opportunities

Over 65% of respondents sought help from WCAVA in the past, not only in identifying funding opportunities but also in completing grant applications. Several of those who have accessed support, found WCAVA's services valuable and informative:

"Not for identifying funding opportunities, as we are pretty informed about those but have contacted WCAVA when completing grant applications in the past".

"I sought help from the WCAVA during the grant application process"

"Yes. They are very informative and helpful"

"Yes, we find their services very valuable"

1 respondent was unsatisfied with the support from WCAVA:

"We have found that WCAVA is not always that good at giving the voluntary sector what they need to thrive--we do use their grant newsletter each quarter, but often use our own resources to find appropriate funding. We have used WCAVA to advertise for volunteers and trustees but have never been successful through that offer."

2. Reported reasons for not accessing the support of WCAVA to identify funding opportunities

Majority of respondents who did not access help from WCAVA in identifying funding opportunities, said they were not familiar with WCAVA's services and offered help:

"I am not sure what they do or how they can help"

"I am not aware of our club having used WCAVA funding opportunities, so the committee may not know that these opportunities exist."

"Unfamiliar with their activity or purpose"

"Don't know what it is"

Several people are, however, willing to seek help for their organisation from WCAVA in the future:

"May do so in the future though"

"Something we should look at"

"...Will need to sign up to WCAVA to ensure regular communications."

Community Grants Review – Narrative Responses

3. Experience of the current council community application process

What worked well?

- ➤ The application process was easy to follow and straightforward

- ➤ Responses received in a timely manner

- ➤ Good support and advice where needed across the application process

- ➤ Technical queries quickly resolved

- ➤ Good communication and feedback

The identified issues:

- ❑ The application process was complicated
- ❑ The application process excludes those who are computer illiterate
- ❑ Time consuming
- ❑ Questions required repetition of information
- ❑ The wording of questions was difficult to follow
- ❑ Issues with uploading supporting documents

Suggestions:

"I would be happier if the process encouraged more diverse groups."

"Perhaps doing a couple of funding rounds per year splitting the allocated pot might speed up the turn around time."

"I think it should be possible to get a "preferred provider" status which would mean a successful audit of policies, procedures etc. which would have the dual benefit of putting voluntary organisations on a solid basis and removing the need to repeat loads of info every time an application is made. Of course applications could still be made from 'none preferred organisations'."

"The grants need to be advertised and promoted more effectively."

Less than a half of respondents agreed that the council is effective in encouraging a broader range of organisations to apply for a community grant.

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title:	Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2026
Name of Committee:	Council
Date of Meeting:	17 June 2021
Report Director:	Chief Officer - Leisure and Wellbeing
Portfolio:	Leisure and Wellbeing
Ward Relevance:	All Wards
Prior Consultation:	N/A
Contact Officer:	Tom Kittendorf - Chief Officer Leisure & Wellbeing
Public or Private:	Public
Report Subject to Call-In:	No
Report En-Bloc:	No
Forward Plan:	Yes
Corporate Priorities: **(C) Climate** **(E) Economy** **(HC) Health and Communities** **(O) Organisation**	This report relates to the following priority(ies): ☐ Rugby is an environmentally sustainable place, where we work together to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. (C) ☐ Rugby has a diverse and resilient economy that benefits and enables opportunities for all residents. (E) ☒ Residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected. (HC) ☐ Rugby Borough Council is a responsible, effective and efficient organisation. (O) Corporate Strategy 2021-2024 ☐ This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but
Summary:	This report provides an introduction to the 2021 - 2026 iteration of the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy and summarises the key priorities for the coming five years.
Financial Implications:	None arising directly from this report.

Risk Management Implications:	None arising directly from this report.
Environmental Implications:	None
Legal Implications:	There is a legal duty on responsible authorities and local clinical commissioning groups to prepare a Health and Wellbeing Strategy and undertake Joint Strategic Needs Assessments. The responsible local authority in Warwickshire is the County Council.
Equality and Diversity:	The Council has duly considered its statutory obligations in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and this policy supports the Council's wider equality objectives.
Options:	To approve and endorse the report or seek to amend or reject the recommendation.
Recommendation:	The importance of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 – 2026 (attached as Appendix A) in determining system wide priorities for work in reducing health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing for Warwickshire residents be noted and endorsed.
Reasons for Recommendation:	To ensure Rugby Borough Council is engaged with Warwickshire County Council's Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Council - 17 June 2021

Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2026

Public Report of the Chief Officer - Leisure and Wellbeing

Recommendation
The importance of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 – 2026 (attached as Appendix A) in determining system wide priorities for work in reducing health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing for Warwickshire residents be noted and endorsed.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Looking after the health and wellbeing of the population of Warwickshire is not the responsibility of one single body. Statutory and non-statutory organisations, including the voluntary sector, across the county all play a part in impacting on our health and wellbeing and influencing our behaviour. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy provides Warwickshire residents and organisations with a picture of what the Health and Wellbeing Board, through its members and wider partners, will need to deliver over the next five years and how we will work together to achieve this.

1.2 This report has been written to summarise the key points of the 2021 - 2026 iteration of the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

1.3 Rugby Borough Council is a component of the public sector Health and Wellbeing 'system' and through the Borough Council's membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board signed up to the Boards purpose of providing leadership and direction for the health and social care economy in the county, leading to improving health and wellbeing of the local population and reduced health inequalities.

1.4 The Health and Wellbeing Board is required to produce a Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Warwickshire periodically in order to focus the work surrounding this agenda.

1.5 It is widely accepted that the key to good health lies outside the world of medicine and the secondary care system in what is known as the wider determinants of health. The primary factors generally cited as wider determinants of health, include socio-economic status, genetics, behavioural and environmental issues.

1.6 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 – 2026 is informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), and learning from the 2014 – 2020 Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Covid-19 research with 2,500 Warwickshire residents as well as drawing on national research and good practice designed to ensure that the priorities are driven by data on the most significant factors influencing health and wellbeing.

2. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and other evidenced priorities
2.1 The research base behind the HWS Strategy revealed the following challenges:

- Overall health in Warwickshire is above average but varies, with residents in more deprived parts living shorter lives and spending a greater proportion of their lives in poor health.
- Children and younger people have increasing needs.
- Around one in four adults experience mental health problems, but the county has seen an improvement in the suicide rate.
- Warwickshire has a growing older population.
- Despite the county's comparatively good performance on education and skills and economic growth, pockets of deprivation limit people's opportunities to succeed in life.
- Inequalities in health exist between White and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.
- The county has a higher level of homelessness than other areas.
- Poor transport links in some parts of the county contribute to loneliness and social isolation.
- Road safety issues, with a higher rate of people killed and seriously injured on roads in Warwickshire.
- Air quality – improving air quality and taking action on climate change has significant benefits both for our local environment and our health and wellbeing.
- Community capacity –The JSNA has highlighted a wealth of voluntary and community activity.
- Improvements to access and integration of services are needed.

2.2 Many of the above will apply to different degrees across the County and activities aimed at addressing these will be achieved through the place-based approach referred to in section 5 (below).

3.0 How Covid-19 has influenced the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

3.1 The impact of Covid-19 on residents of Rugby Borough and Warwickshire will be considerable and it will be some time before it can be fully calculated. That said, the Strategy seeks to consider these alongside all of the challenges noted in section 2.1.

3.2 The Strategy recognises a number of negative Covid-19 associated impacts. These include increased death rates in more deprived communities, challenges around child and adolescent mental health, higher levels of risk for older residents, increasing benefit claimant counts and the heightened risks to BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) groups. Also noted are other less negative consequences including greater participation in exercise, cleaner air and a massive grass roots involvement in supporting more vulnerable residents.

4.0 Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

4.1 In order to deliver the Health and Wellbeing Boards ambitions, the Board has agreed three priority areas to focus on over the next two years. These emerged as priorities within the findings from the JSNA and the Covid-19 health impact assessment (HIA). They are to:

- Help our children and young people have the best start in life.
- Help people improve their mental health and wellbeing, particularly around prevention and early intervention in our communities.
- Reduce inequalities in health outcomes and the wider determinants of health.

4.2 These three will remain priorities for the first two years of the Strategy after which these will be reviewed.

4.3 The full text of the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 - 2026 accompanies this report and is attached as Appendix A.

5.0 The Place Based Approach

5.1 Each place has a Health and Wellbeing Partnership and a Health and Care Executive that will play a key role in delivering the Strategy locally, making sure that action plans have been tailored to meet local needs, and build on the strengths, of each place.

5.2 Health and communities is key pillar of the Council's Corporate Strategy and the Council will be working with its wider partners in the Rugby Health and Wellbeing Partnership to produce a Rugby focussed strategy and action plan which encompasses these two overarching strategies. This will also support how the Council influences the wider determinants of health and wellbeing, alongside the emerging JSNA priority actions and will be key in aligning resources to supporting and improving the health and wellbeing of our residents.

6 Conclusion
6.1 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is a helpful piece of work providing a clear set of overarching priorities in our efforts to improve the health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities of District residents.

6.2 In order to gain the most from the considerable work undertaken, the organisation needs to place health and wellbeing considerations at the heart of the decision-making processes of the authority as reflected in the new Corporate Strategy.

Name of Meeting: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 17 June 2021

Subject Matter: WCC Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2026

Originating Department: Leisure and Wellbeing

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY ☒ **YES** ☐ **NO**

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink
	WCC Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2026

The background papers relating to reports on planning applications and which are open to public inspection under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, consist of the planning applications, referred to in the reports, and all written responses to consultations made by the Local Planning Authority, in connection with those applications.

☐ Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

Doc No	Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A

Warwickshire
Health and Wellbeing
Strategy

Foreword

Our new Health and Wellbeing Strategy presents a real opportunity to make a difference to the health and wellbeing of everyone in Warwickshire. The Strategy has been produced in collaboration with Health and Wellbeing Board partners in a context of change which brings both challenges and opportunities. Much has happened since our first Strategy in 2014. There is significant pressure in the health and care system and the public sector more widely because of increasing demand and reducing capacity. This has been further amplified by the Covid-19 pandemic which has radically changed how society functions.

As we start to rebuild communities and reset services as part of our recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, even more importance needs to be placed on tackling inequalities in health and creating engaged and cohesive communities that are able to thrive despite the ongoing challenges we all face. Helping our children and young people to get the best start in life is key to this, as is supporting people to look after their mental health and wellbeing particularly as 1 in 3 visits to mental health services during the pandemic were from new users. Our Covid-19 Health Impact Assessment (HIA) has highlighted two findings which will be key drivers behind our new Strategy and its implementation:

1. An **integrated recovery** which looks across traditional organisational boundaries is required to understand the wider impact to services; and

2. There is a **double impact of harm** which disproportionately impacts on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, and the most vulnerable individuals facing multiple deprivation and inequalities in health

The NHS long-term plan and Coventry and Warwickshire Five Year Health and Care Plan both confirm a greater focus on prevention and a move to a more integrated health and care system. We want to build on the momentum from our previous Strategy and the Year of Wellbeing 2019 to drive further commitment around improving health and wellbeing. We have set out high level ambitions for the next five years, as well as specific priorities we think we should focus on over the next two years.

This Strategy sets out our commitments and vision for improving health and wellbeing for Warwickshire. It is however the first step, and next we need to deliver on these commitments. To make sure that we get this right for our communities, we are taking a place-based approach to delivery. In Warwickshire, our 3 Places are:

- North – covers North Warwickshire Borough and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough

- Rugby – covers Rugby Borough

- South – covers Stratford on Avon District and Warwick District

Each place has a Health and Wellbeing Partnership and a Health and Care Executive that will play a key role in delivering the Strategy locally making sure that action plans have been tailored to meet local needs and build on the strengths, of each place.

Councillor Les Caborn
Chair of Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board

Introduction

What is the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWS) is Warwickshire's high-level plan for improving health and wellbeing and reducing differences, or inequalities, in health within Warwickshire. The HWS is owned by Warwickshire's Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), a collaborative partnership bringing together senior leaders from the county, borough and district councils, the third sector represented by Warwickshire Community and Voluntary Action (WCAVA), Healthwatch Warwickshire, NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), NHS trusts, Warwickshire Fire Service and the Police & Crime Commissioner.

The 2021-2026 HWS is informed by data and engagement evidence from our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) learning from our 2014-2020 Health and Wellbeing Strategy, as well as drawing on national research and good practice. Key stakeholders, including people living and working in Warwickshire, were consulted with during the early stages of strategy development. The findings from the consultation have been reflected within this final draft. The HWS responds to the rapidly changing context for health and social care by setting out a five-year vision for health and wellbeing in Warwickshire. It will be used by local health and care partners to inform plans for commissioning services and to shape how we will work together to address the wider determinants of health.

Our long-term strategic ambitions for Warwickshire are:

HEALTHY PEOPLE STRONG COMMUNITIES EFFECTIVE SERVICES

Figure 1: Coventry and Warwickshire's Strategic ambitions (HCP, 2019)

These ambitions are aligned to our shared vision for health and wellbeing across Coventry and Warwickshire's Health and Care Partnership (HCP). Together we want to do everything in our power to enable everyone to pursue a happy, healthy life by putting people at the heart of everything we do.

"One Health & Care Partnership, Two Health and Wellbeing Boards, Four Places, Three Outcomes"

To deliver on these ambitions in Warwickshire, the HWB has agreed three priority areas to focus on over the next two years.

Priorities for Warwickshire:

- Help our children and young people have the best start in life

- Help people improve their mental health and wellbeing, particularly around prevention and early intervention in our communities

- Reduce inequalities in health outcomes and the wider determinants of health

Within Warwickshire health and wellbeing outcomes can differ dependent where you live. For example, males living in the north of the county in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough die on average 3.6 years earlier when compared with males living in the south of the county in Stratford on Avon District [1]. To make sure that we are getting things right for each area we have established local Health and Wellbeing Partnerships (HWP) for North, Rugby, and South Warwickshire. Each HWP is developing an action plan outlining how they will focus on our county-wide priorities in a way that meets the health and wellbeing needs of North, Rugby, and South Warwickshire.

We will routinely monitor our performance in outcomes related to these priorities and after two years we will evaluate if these should remain our priorities for a further two-year period, or if there are other areas we should focus on to help achieve our long-term strategic ambitions. However, the HWB partners recognise that we are still yet to understand the full impact of Covid-19 across all areas of health and wellbeing. With this in mind, we will be monitoring progress against our priority areas regularly to understand if our two-year timeframe needs to change.

Our journey - Where we are now

There has been ongoing commitment to deliver on the priorities of the 2014-2020 Strategy from each organisation represented on the HWB and our Annual Reviews highlight some of the achievements in delivering our ambitions of the Strategy over the last 5 years. Over this period, the role of wider partners in health and wellbeing has been increasingly recognised, such as Housing and Planning teams in our Districts and Boroughs, the Police and the Fire and Rescue Service.

There has been stronger partnership working, however it is acknowledged that we do not always join up what we do and make the connections between different areas of work. This means we may miss opportunities to identify synergies and complementary activity and do not always get the best outcomes as a result. To do this better we are adopting a 'population health' approach which takes a holistic view of everything that impacts on people's health and wellbeing. A population health approach pays greater attention to the connection between four areas that influence health and wellbeing (figure 2). These areas are *the wider determinants of health, health behaviours and lifestyles, the place and communities we live in and with, and an integrated health and care system.*
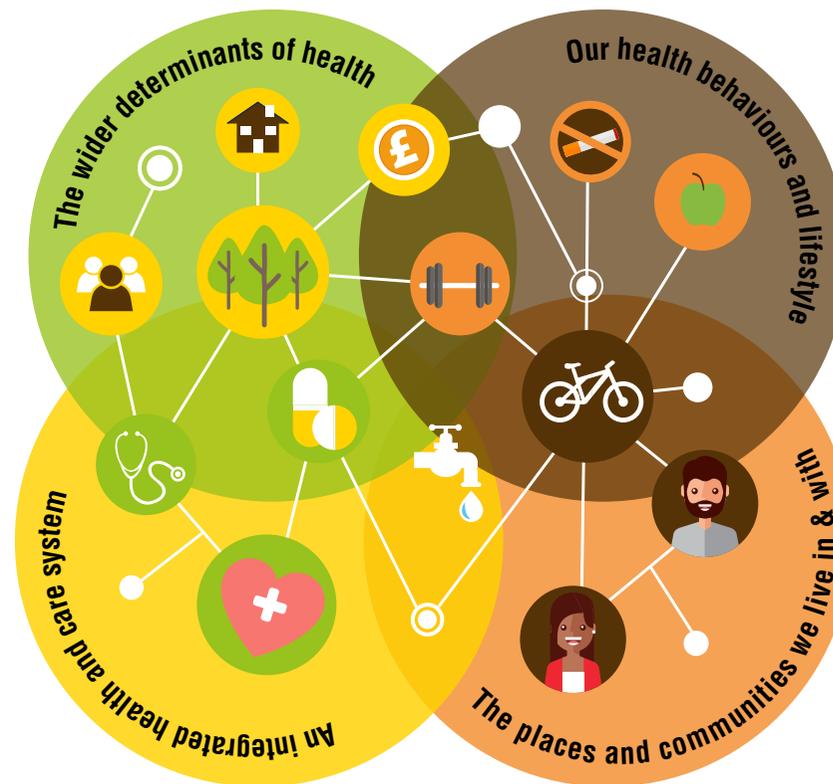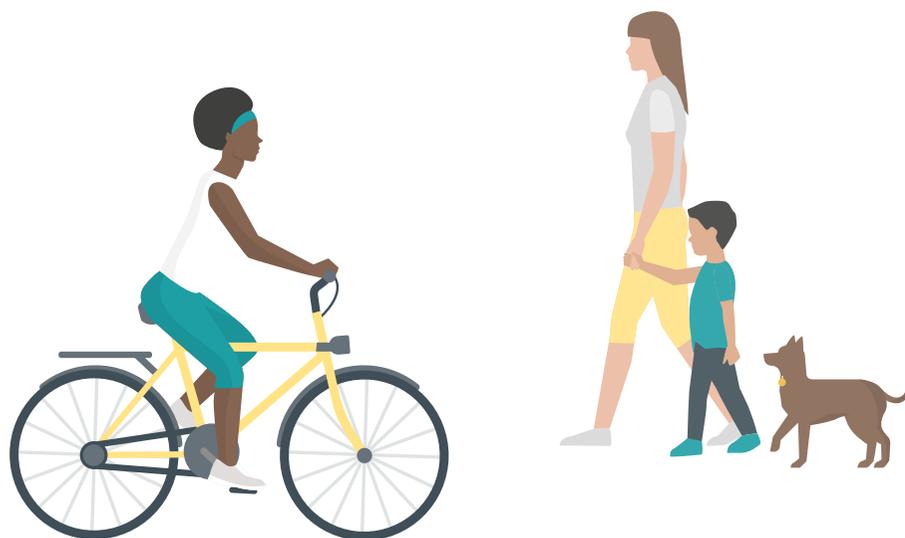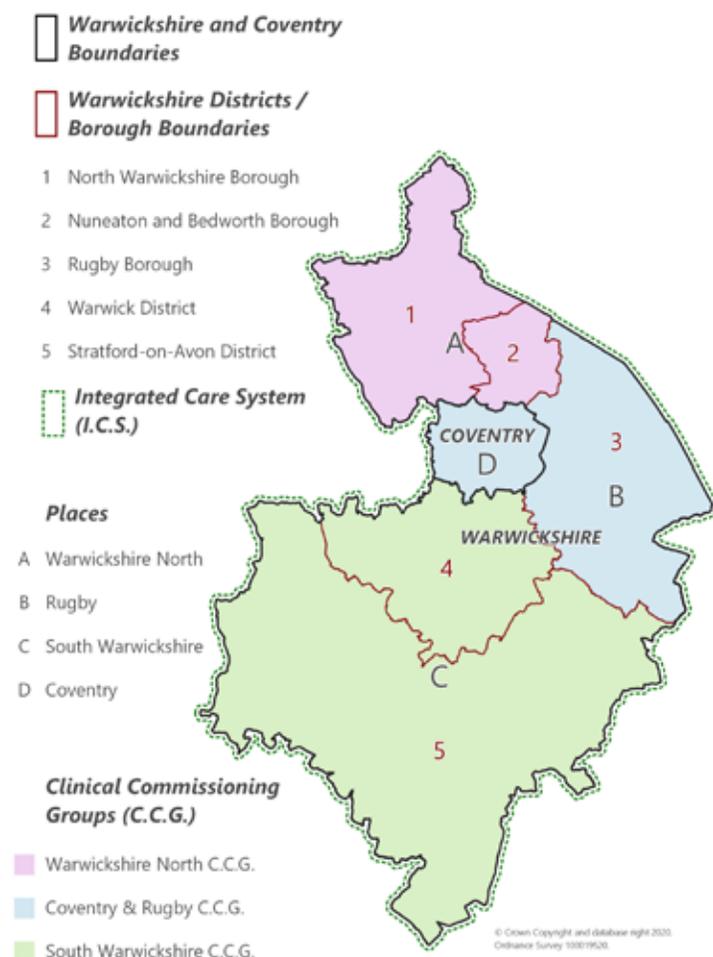

Figure 2: Population health model (Kings Fund, 2019)

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

To inform the development of the new HWS we have undertaken research and engagement as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) process. We used an approach that focused on the health needs of people within each local HWP (figure 3). By undertaking this approach we have been able to identify the needs and priorities within the North, Rugby, and South Warwickshire and ensure our recommendations are tailored to each place.

Warwickshire and Coventry Boundaries

Warwickshire Districts / Borough Boundaries

1 North Warwickshire Borough
2 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough
3 Rugby Borough
4 Warwick District
5 Stratford-on-Avon District

Integrated Care System (I.C.S.)

Places

A Warwickshire North
B Rugby
C South Warwickshire
D Coventry

Clinical Commissioning Groups (C.C.G.)

Warwickshire North C.C.G.
Coventry & Rugby C.C.G.
South Warwickshire C.C.G.

© Crown Copyright and database right 2020. Ordnance Survey 100019520.

Over the last two years we have been building our understanding of assets and needs across the county through analysis of evidence from a wide range of sources. As part of our JSNA we have talked to over 2,000 residents and professionals and over 300 community organisations about the key issues facing local communities. In light of the Covid-19 outbreak we undertook further engagement in September 2020 and heard from over 2,500 residents on how life had changed for them since the outbreak. These findings reflect a snapshot in time and over the next few years data may have changed as the lasting impact of the pandemic continues to emerge.

From this, we know that:

- **Overall health in Warwickshire is above average but varies, with residents in more deprived parts living shorter lives and spending a greater proportion of their lives in poor health.** In less deprived parts of the county males can expect to live over 9 years longer and females 5 years longer than those in more deprived areas[2]. People are spending more of their later years in ill-health – over 18 years for men and nearly 20 years for women[3]. There are avoidable differences in health outcomes, often linked to smoking, alcohol consumption, obesity and lack of physical activity. There is a need for better communication and advice to help people lead a healthy and independent life.

- **Children and younger people have increasing needs.** Nearly one in three children age 10-11 are overweight or obese[4]. Increasing numbers of children aged 0-14 are being admitted to hospital with injuries and hospital admissions have also increased for alcohol specific conditions in under 18s[5,6]. There are growing concerns regarding mental health issues and self-harm rates among young people (age 10-24)[7]. With the number of school children forecast to increase by over 4,000 by 2025 the demand on support services is likely to increase[8].

- **Around one in four adults experience mental health problems, but the county has seen an improvement in the suicide rate.** Levels of suicide in Warwickshire have historically been higher than the England average. However, following a large programme of work aimed at

suicide prevention, local rates are now in line with the England average[9]. With awareness of mental health increasing and changes in underlying risk factors, more adults and young people are likely to present to health services with a mental health need by 2025.

Covid-19 impact: We know that for many people mental health and wellbeing has been negatively impacted as a result of the pandemic response. Local mental health support services reported seeing more people experiencing anxiety disorders[10] and the Warwickshire COVID-19 Survey found an increase in self-harming behaviours among people with pre-existing mental health conditions.

- **Warwickshire has a growing older population.** There are more people over the age of 65 than the national average (20.8% in Warwickshire and 18.4% for England) and those over 85 are expected to almost double from 16,561 in 2020 to 30,132 in 2040. The prevalence of dementia (all ages) is higher than the national average in South Warwickshire (similar to the national average for Coventry and Rugby and below the national average for Warwickshire North)[11]. Across the CCG as the whole, the estimated dementia diagnosis rate for those aged 65 and above is below the national average[12]. These issues put pressure on services and carers who provide support. We need to focus on preventative health in the younger and working age population now to help manage future demand on health and care services.

- **Despite the county's comparatively good performance on education and skills and economic growth, pockets of deprivation limit people's opportunities to succeed in life.** 6 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are in the 10% most deprived nationally. A further 16 LSOAs are in the second most deprived decile, and 26 are in the third most deprived decile. 12% of children (11,400) live in low-income households. Social inequalities and life chances are already established from these early years of life. .

Covid-19 impact: Across Warwickshire the percentage of working age people receiving Job Seekers Allowance plus those receiving Universal Credit was gradually increasing from 1.9% in April 2019 to 2.2% in March 2020. Across Warwickshire the highest rates were in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough

which were consistently higher than the England rate, and the lowest were in Warwick and Stratford Districts. However, since the first lockdown, claimant rates increased significantly across the county, with each district and borough seeing at least double the number of claimants. North Warwickshire saw the biggest percentage increase in claimants when comparing rates between May 2019 and May 2020[13].

- **Inequalities in health exist between White and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.** Individuals from a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME[a]) background are highlighted to potentially have greater rates of mental health illness compared to White British individuals. People from ethnic minority groups are at higher risk of being out of work; prior to Covid-19 the rate of unemployment in some ethnic minority communities was 6.1% compared to 3.5% for people from a white background[14].

Covid-19 impact: People from BAME groups were more likely to be at increased risk of exposure to Covid-19 than White British groups during the first wave of the pandemic, often due to working in frontline or essential services. Mortality rates were highest among South Asian and Black Caribbean groups[15].

- **The county has a higher level of homelessness than other areas.** We know that good quality housing leads to better health and wellbeing as it indirectly affects early years outcomes, educational achievement, economic prosperity, mental health and community safety[16].

Covid-19 impact: Under the 'everyone in' directive we supported 139 rough sleepers to access emergency shelter who had not been assessed formerly to be owed a statutory duty to accommodate. Wider financial impacts of the pandemic have led to an increase in people concerned about meeting housing costs.[3]

---

[a] We use the acronym BAME throughout this strategy. However, we recognise its limitations as a term that combines and, therefore, dilutes the experiences of Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups. WCC is actively seeking ways to address this by holding discussions about the use of the acronym BAME, the impact of the term and potential alternative terms that may be more suitable.

- **Poor transport links in some parts of the county contribute to loneliness and social isolation.** Nearly a third of people live in rural areas in Warwickshire, often with poor public transport links, which can make it difficult to access services, and over one in three of the population over 65 report they are lonely some or all of the time[17].

  Covid-19 impact: Residents feel less comfortable about using public transport due to concerns of exposure to COVID-19[3].

- **Road safety** – a higher rate of people are killed and seriously injured on roads in Warwickshire when compared to the England average. This is compounded by rapid population growth in areas such as Rugby resulting in pressure on services, increased road traffic, and poorer air quality in some of our town centres.

  Covid-19 impact: Warwickshire residents have walked or cycled more during the pandemic, however the most common barrier to opting to walk or cycle more is concern about traffic and other road users[3].

- **Air quality** – improving air quality and taking action on climate change has significant benefits both for our local environment and our health and wellbeing, including reducing the risk of developing or exacerbating respiratory illnesses.

  Covid-19 impact: Reduced traffic during the pandemic has led to improved air quality; there is an opportunity to harness changes in behaviour made during the pandemic for longer-term environmental and health benefits. Additionally, when asked residents would feel most motivated to take local action on conservation and action on climate change within their local communities[3].

- **Community capacity** – our JSNA has highlighted a wealth of voluntary and community activity. Community organisations are often best placed to address health challenges as they have networks, understanding and legitimacy. However, their resources are limited, and the public sector must change how it works with communities by shifting to an 'enabling' leadership style to join forces and build capacity.

  Covid-19 impact: The grassroots response to mobilising mutual aid during the pandemic period has had a big impact on local volunteering, how it is perceived and how it can be promoted in the future.

- **Improvements to access and integration of services are needed, with a focus on self-care and prevention to help people stay well and ensuring a seamless experience of accessing care when help is needed.**

  Covid-19 impact: Respondents reported access to services as a top priority and a third were uncertain about accessing these facilities compared to other settings during the initial lockdown period. For some the shift to digital GP appointments represented a more convenient way of accessing services, whilst others felt this did not adequately replace face to face contact[18].

> More information about the findings from our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment can be found at **www.warwickshire.gov.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessments-1**
>
> More information about the findings from our Covid-19 Health Impact Assessment can be found at: **www.warwickshire.gov.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessments-1/impact-covid-19/1**

Where do we want to get to?

Based on this understanding of local needs, we are proposing three overarching **strategic ambitions** for the health and wellbeing of our residents.

HEALTHY PEOPLE   STRONG COMMUNITIES   EFFECTIVE SERVICES

These ambitions are interdependent and the outcomes we hope to achieve are:

1. People will lead a healthy and independent life.

By this we mean promoting culturally competent healthy lifestyles and behaviours to help people stay healthy and well. By 'healthy' we mean being in a good state of physical and mental health and wellbeing. It means working together to make sure that every child has the same opportunity to thrive and has the best start in life. If people have existing health problems, we want to prevent them from escalating to the point where they require significant, complex and specialist health and care interventions. It means helping people to age well and to slow the development of frailty in older people. The focus will be on empowering people to take action to improve their health and wellbeing and providing effective, timely support where needed.

Direction of travel will be monitored through engagement activities with our communities and indicators such as:

- **Children and young people:** healthy weight; admissions for injuries; under 18 alcohol and drug admissions; child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) performance; children living in poverty; children and young people who self-harm; school readines; children physically active; mental health and wellbeing at Year 9; breast feeding rates at six weeks.

- **Working-age adults:** healthy life expectancy; physically active adults; overweight and obese; alcohol admissions; suicide rate; number of health checks; happiness/wellness; smoking status.

- **Older people:** falls; dementia diagnosis; flu immunisations; social isolation; support needs met by admission to residential and nursing care homes.

2. People will be part of a strong community.

By this we mean working together with communities and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) to create a healthy environment where everyone has the opportunity to thrive, with access to jobs, secure housing and social connections. We will take a strengths-based approach to build community capacity, increase levels of volunteering and social action, and will continue to build on our existing strong relationships with the VCS to enable and support new approaches to secure integrated, more efficient and community-led outcomes. We will co-produce services with our communities where possible to make sure they meet people's needs.

Direction of travel will be monitored through engagement activities with our communities and indicators such as:

- **Economic inclusion:** universal credit claimants; people in employment; gap in employment rate between those with mental health or learning disabilities and the overall employment rate; use of food banks; index of multiple deprivation; free school meals; digital and financial inclusion measures.

- **Housing and homelessness:** fuel poverty; statutory homelessness and priority need or in temporary housing; proportion of affordable homes being built; energy performance certificate (EPC) ratings of properties; those accessing support through citizens advice.

- **Transport and air quality measures:** level of air pollution; number of trips made using active travel methods; CO2 emissions; use of public transport.

- **Road Safety:** killed and seriously injured (KSI) casualties on England's roads.

- **Carers support:** percentage of adult carers who have as much social contact as they would like; carers wellbeing service measures.

3. People will experience effective and sustainable services.

These outcomes are also aligned to the Coventry and Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Concordat, owned by the Health and Wellbeing Boards for both Warwickshire and Coventry. We will focus on the best way to achieve good outcomes for people, reduce the number of interactions people have with our services, and avoid multiple interventions. We will work together with VCS and HCP partners to focus on early intervention to prevent people from needing to use complex and specialist services. We will seek to develop accessible, responsive, and high-quality services that are designed in a way that seeks to reduce inequalities in health. We will co-produce services with key stakeholders where possible and work with service users to ensure cultural competence of materials and accessibility for a range of needs including people with learning disabilities.

Direction of travel will be monitored through engagement activities with our communities and indicators such as:

- **Quality of services:** emergency readmissions within 30 days of discharge; excess winter deaths, delayed transfers of care from hospital.

- **Access to services:** proportion of adults in the population in contact with secondary mental health services; proportion of patients satisfied with GP practice appointment time; active travel, access to open space; use of leisure centres; waiting times for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHs); referral to fitter futures; digital inclusion; walking and cycling routes; use of country parks.

- **Early intervention:** Uptake of health checks among people with learning difficulties and among people with serious mental illness; social prescribing

measures; participation in VCS groups tackling mental health/loneliness; vulnerable persons seeking assistance/referrals; evaluation of social prescribing; number of schools and businesses signed up to Thrive.

- **Long term conditions:** people feeling supported to manage their condition.

How will we get there

We are working on a population health framework for Warwickshire to underpin everything we do as a health and wellbeing system to achieve our long-term vision for change. It is taken from a model developed by the King's Fund and is based on four areas that impact on people's health and wellbeing (figure 5). For Warwickshire this means:

- **Wider determinants** – working in partnership to tackle health inequalities through addressing the social determinants of health such as education, employment, income, housing, transport and a healthy environment.

- **Our health behaviours and lifestyles** – aligning and coordinating prevention programmes to maximise impact and tackle barriers to healthy lifestyle choices.

- **The places and communities we live in and with** – working together with our communities to mobilise solutions, informed by our understanding of local needs and assets from local data and intelligence.

- **An integrated health and care system** – health and social care commissioners and providers working together to commission and deliver services in Warwickshire.

We plan to invest in getting these foundations right and our plans will consider each of these components and the connections between them. Some of the outcomes related to our ambitions will be delivered indirectly by other strategies and plans, such as economic strategies and growth plans which will improve access to employment and training and therefore influence improvements in the wider determinants of health. Local development plans and core strategies that will set the vision for development and regeneration across Warwickshire and will provide key infrastructure and housing to meet local need. Similarly, the Local Transport Plan will support a shift in transport modes to more sustainable active travel that will provide greater opportunity for people to be physically active; and
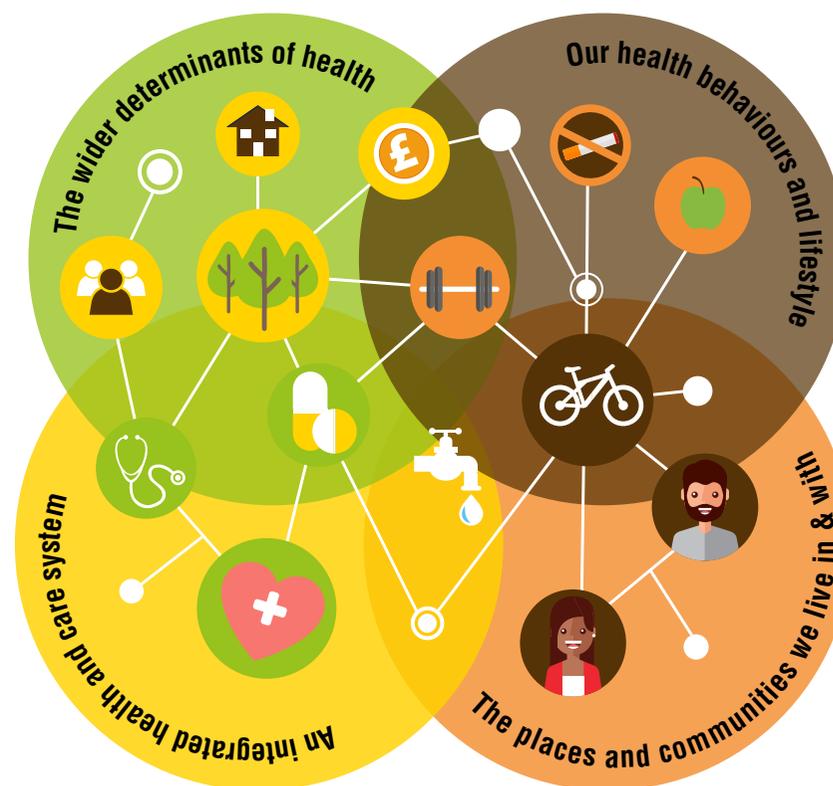

Figure 5: Our approach to population health (Kings Fund, 2019)

leisure, recreation and green space strategies will improve local facilities, parks, and play equipment to support everyone to keep active.

The importance of whole-system approaches for promoting health and wellbeing and strengthening the local economy is highlighted by the NHS Confederation report "NHS Reset: The Role for Health and Care in the Economy: a five - point plan for every system"[19]. This identifies key areas for all systems to address covering

the role of Anchor Institutions, strengthening recruitment of local residents, building the local supply chain, embedding health within planning frameworks and supporting civic restoration in the recovery from the pandemic. These have relevance to each of our strategic ambitions and our local place-based priorities and recovery plans.

Our ways of working

The following principles, which form part of the Coventry and Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Concordat, will underpin the way we work as Health and Wellbeing Board partners:

Prioritising prevention: we will tackle the causes of health-related problems to reduce the impact of ill-health on people's lives, their families and communities. We will seek to address the root causes of problems, listening to local people's priorities and acting on their concerns.

Strengthening communities: we will work with communities and the community and voluntary sector to support strong and stable communities. We will listen to residents to understand what they want from the services we provide and encourage them, to lead change themselves where possible.

Co-ordinating services: we will work together to design services which take account of the complexity of people's lives and their over-lapping health and social needs. We will focus on the best way to achieve good outcomes for people, reducing the number of interactions people have with our services and avoiding multiple interventions from different providers.

Sharing responsibility: we value the distinct contributions by all organisations that are represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board. We will maintain partnerships between the public sector, voluntary and community sector, local businesses and residents, recognising that we share a responsibility to transform the health and wellbeing of our communities. We will pool resources, budgets and accountabilities where it will improve services for the public.

Our priorities

We have identified **three initial priorities** where we can make a tangible difference in the short-term by working together in partnership. We will use these areas to test our new ways of working and bring our population health framework to life (figure 6). There is a wealth of great work already being done in these areas and the challenge is to add value by making connections and creating energy and momentum to upscale existing activity. We will look at each area through the lens of the population health framework, identifying how each component contributes to addressing the issue and links to the others. We think that these are areas that, if we make a difference here, will impact positively on other health and wellbeing issues and priorities for the county.

We have chosen these priorities because we know that they are areas where we could do better. The first two priorities were identified through the JSNA findings and workshops with senior leaders and remain relevant now. Reducing health inequalities has long been a priority underpinning our work and now deserves more prominence due to the 'double-impact' of the pandemic. Our three initial priorities are to:

- Help our children and young people have the best start in life.

- Help people improve their mental health and wellbeing, particularly around prevention and early intervention in our communities.

- Reduce inequalities in health outcomes and the wider determinants of health.

We will review our progress on these areas annually and change our priority areas after two years if necessary. Our three HWP and Health and Care Executives (HCE) will play a crucial role in the delivery of the HWS and will have strategic oversight of the four areas within the population health model. Together they will develop local implementation plans that are rooted in the understanding of the health of the population in each place (North, Rugby, South).

Priority 1 – help our children and young people have the best start in life

We know that positive early experiences are vital to make sure children are ready to learn, ready for school, and have good life chances. Support needs to start early, including support for parents in the "1001 Critical Days" (from conception to age two) when the foundations for development are laid. Children and young people have experienced significant challenges throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. For many children and young people disruption to education and homelife will have impacted on their mental health and wellbeing.

More families have found themselves in financial hardship following the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, between March and April 2020, we know that there was an increase in the number of food parcels given to families with children, as well as an increase in the number of children newly eligible for a free school meal. Financial hardship can impact negatively on children's prospects. WCC has developed the **Family Poverty Strategy** and will work in partnership with HWB members and VCS partners to implement the strategy and seek to tackle childhood disadvantage.

Childhood vaccinations are a vital health priority to protect against a number of diseases. Nationally and locally in Warwickshire there has been a decrease in the numbers of children being vaccinated during the Covid-19 outbreak. Good uptake in Warwickshire is important to avoid a resurgence of vaccine-preventable diseases, which could have a major impact on the health of children and vulnerable groups. This is why we have started our **#Carryonvaccinating campaign** and why we are committed to improving uptake of vaccinations across Warwickshire.

Providing extra support for mothers at risk of premature birth is a key priority within the NHS Long Term Plan. We know that the smoking status of mothers can impact on the birthweight of babies and that this can impact on health outcomes over the life course. Rates of smoking at the time of delivery are higher in the North of the county compared to the South. To tackle this inequality in health we are working to implement the recommendations from our Local Maternity

Services (LMS) **Smoking in Pregnancy Review** and making sure that access to services is proportionate to need. We are taking this same approach with our other services that support children and young people, such as Health Visiting. **By taking a targeted approach to earlier intervention and prevention we will work together to give every child the best possible start in life.**

Case Study: Establishing a pool of locally trained Youth support Workers

Our young people are growing up in an environment that makes securing these vital building blocks more difficult than it was for previous generations. Today's young people face an unstable labour market, heightened by the economic impact from Covid-19, and a more challenging housing market. They are reporting higher levels of loneliness and poor mental health than previous generations[20].

In response to a lack of youth groups and youth-led support in North Warwickshire borough and across south Warwickshire, Young People First, a local youth organisation working across Warwickshire were approached by WCC and Borough and District Council partners to run an accredited training programme to establish pools of local youth support workers.

Once trained and having completed their portfolio based on a 6-month work-based placement in a youth setting successful applicants were awarded a Level 2 Award in Youth Work Practice by ABC Awards.

With a pool of accredited youth support workers in the local areas, youth projects could be better supported and able to provide a worthwhile initiative to work with young people.

The courses were free to join and funded through Warwickshire County Council with contributions in the North from the Borough Council also. In North Warwickshire 10 people took part in the course with people from all over the borough and Nuneaton and Bedworth, whilst 15 were selected from a pool of 25 in the south with approximately half from Warwick

district and half from Stratford. There was a range of experience within both groups with some already working in voluntary or paid youth worker roles, whilst others looking to expand their skills to better support the local communities and offer additional services and some looking for a change of career.

The groups received 4 days of intensive training over 6 weeks covering topics such as: theory of youth work; safeguarding; young people's development; engaging and communicating with young people. The group training was accompanied by individual portfolios of written and practical work followed by at least 6 months of paid or voluntary work with young people 2-3 hours per week.
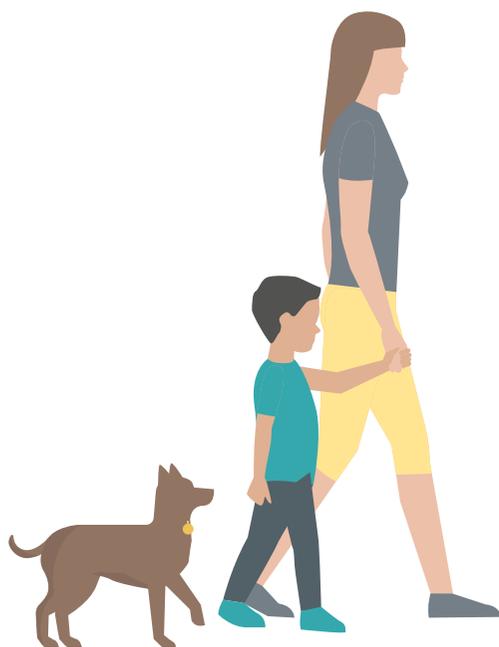
Priority 2 – help people improve their mental health and wellbeing, particularly around prevention and early intervention in our communities

Delivering an all-age mental health system that is underpinned by prevention, building resilience, early intervention, recovery and self-care in the places people live and work is a key priority across Coventry and Warwickshire.[21] This is an even greater priority now because of the impact that Covid-19 has had on mental health and wellbeing. People have reported experiencing more feelings of loneliness and heightened anxiety due to uncertainty about the virus and the wider implications of the outbreak[20]. In Warwickshire 85,000 people were furloughed during the initial lockdown period, and research suggests that an increase in hardship and economic recession can exacerbate mental health illness. We also know from our Covid-19 residents survey that respondents with a prior mental health condition were more likely to report engaging in less healthy behaviours as coping mechanisms, such as drinking more alcohol or making unhealthy food choices, and for a smaller proportion turning to self-harming behaviours. This is why mental health and wellbeing is a top priority for the HWB and why we are committed to continue investing in mental health and wellbeing services.

Prevention and early intervention are key to supporting people to improve their mental health and wellbeing. Building community resilience and community capacity is crucial to this and involves working with wider partners from the VCS, and not solely health. As part of this, the **Working Together Partnership**, led by Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust (CWPT), brings together health and care partners and VCS organisations across Coventry and Warwickshire to improve holistic support for people to improve positive mental health.

Following the success of our Year of Wellbeing, we are launching **Wellbeing for Life** to continue with the positive action we saw during 2019. We want to ensure mental health and wellbeing is considered within our own policies, which is why we are committed to reviewing these to see how we can improve. Evidence shows that having a happy and healthy workforce increases staff productivity and job satisfaction, contributing to overall improvements in quality of life. In partnership with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) we are supporting employers

to sign-up to **Thrive at Work**, a commitment which promotes employee health and wellbeing by focusing on key areas such as: mental, musculoskeletal, and physical health; and promoting healthy lifestyles.[22]

Certain groups face inequalities in mental health and wellbeing due to existing conditions or specific life experiences. There are a number of key strategies that will help us achieve this priority including our **Living Well with Dementia Strategy**, that sets out how we will improve outcomes for people living with dementia. Our **Homelessness Strategy** aims to better address the needs of people who are homeless or sleeping rough. Individuals experiencing homelessness are less likely to engage with traditional services, which is why we have established a Physical Health Outreach Service and a Mental Health Enhanced Care Pathway that aim to improve the physical and mental health of people who sleep rough, which if left unsupported, can often result in A&E attendance.

Case study: Creative Health interventions – helping residents improve their mental health and wellbeing during the Covid-19 pandemic

Artists have been helping defeat the loneliness of lockdown thanks to a special Covid-19 programme of activity called #creativecarecw.

WCC funded eight organisations across the county to create new activities specifically designed to beat the isolation that some people are suffering during the pandemic. The result has been a varied programme targeted at improving the lives of lots of different groups of people both young and old and activity in each of our District and Boroughs. The projects have reached over 450 people directly (virtually) plus 10,000 residents received an "Arts pack" to work on at home, and over 5,000 residents engaged with online activities.

 Examples include:

- Sundragon Pottery provided clay modelling packs with a creative clay booklet for young people in a supported housing scheme.

- Arts Uplift organised online sewing, singing and drama classes, for groups including older people in care homes and people isolated at home.

- Singer Juliet Russell provided choir practice for people with respiratory difficulties.

- Escape Arts' 'We are One' series included a printed pack which has been distributed widely in hospitals and the community, offering creative activities for all ages, including street homeless people who are in temporary accommodation.

Research shows creative activities like these can have a huge impact on people's physical and mental health and wellbeing.[23] Here in Warwickshire, new links have been forged between arts groups and groups of people at risk of isolation through their disability, illness, age, or a host of other reasons. We believe this approach could be a blueprint to help us develop our work with arts organisations and target activity on those people who need our help the most, at the same time reducing their dependency on health services.

We are working with Coventry University to evaluate the programme, the findings of which will inform the roll-out of a Warwickshire Arts on Referral programme in early 2021.

Priority 3 – Reduce inequalities in health outcomes and the wider determinants of health

Reducing health inequalities has always been at the heart of the work of the HWB and the HWS. Certain groups tend to experience poorer health outcomes or access to services, including people living with disabilities, learning difficulties, people with serious mental illness, people from BAME communities, and people from lower socio-economic groups. We want to support people from these groups to keep fit and healthy and reduce their risk of developing Covid-19 through "prehab" activities. Health inequalities are multi-factorial with people with the worst health outcomes often experiencing a combination of risk factors and living in environments less conducive to good health. We know the environment in which we live can influence the choices we make, which is why the HWB endorsed local **'Promoting Health and Wellbeing through Spatial Planning'** guidance in January 2020 to support the development of healthy equitable places.

Findings from national and local data has highlighted that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on people from BAME backgrounds. We have prioritised reducing inequalities for people from BAME backgrounds and will continue to work with our VCS partners and local faith groups to continue this work. Some of the ways we are supporting this work include:

- Appointing two Connecting Communities Support Officers as part of the Test and Trace team.
- Commissioning collaborative research projects that will work with people from BAME backgrounds to find out more about how Covid-19 has impacted on BAME communities.
- Adopting inclusive recruitment and employment policies and processes to improve diversity in our workforce.
- Improving our recording of ethnicity data to better understand access and outcomes of health and wellbeing.
- Advocating the use of the Health Equity Assessment Tool[24] (HEAT) across the wider determinants of health.

We have established a system-wide group to lead on the response to address inequalities in NHS provision and outcomes. The **HCP Health Inequalities Group** is identifying how best to respond to eight urgent actions on inequalities. Areas for action include: developing a shared approach to social value across anchor organisations; reducing barriers to work; and exploring the impact of Covid-19 on families with children 0-5s. As the HWB we are also championing a **Call to Action**, asking local employers to focus on what they can do to reduce inequalities in health within their own workforce.

Working in partnership is key to reducing inequalities in health and across Coventry and Warwickshire we want to make sure we are engaging more meaningfully and strategically with VCS partners, which is why we are supporting programmes of work which take community-centred approaches to bring the whole system together. An example of this is the **Healthy Communities Together**[25] programme which will bring learning for new ways of working across the Coventry and Warwickshire Health and Care system.

The **Coventry and Warwickshire Anchor Alliance**, an informal alliance of the two councils, the acute trusts and CWPT, the universities and Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP). The intention is to work together where there are levers of influence to benefit local people and achieve the best return on the Coventry and Warwickshire pound – as employers, purchasers, land and asset owners and resource users.

Case study: Promoting Health and Wellbeing through Spatial Planning

The environment we live in plays a vital role in both improving and protecting the health and wellbeing of our communities. Good planning and well-designed places can provide opportunities for people to be physically active and connect with others. The importance of our built environment has been highlighted more during the Covid-19 pandemic as poor housing conditions, such as overcrowding, have been associated with an increased risk of disease transmission.[26] The value of accessing good quality green

spaces has also proven beneficial for people's mental wellbeing during this period.

We know that inequalities in health exist along the social gradient and those living in the most deprived areas are likely to have a lack of green space, poor air quality, and poorer housing compared to the least deprived areas. We do not want this to be the case for Warwickshire, which is why we have developed Promoting Health and Wellbeing Through Spatial Planning. The guidance document will help to make sure that we embed health and wellbeing within our Borough and District Council's local development plans and core strategies, as well as our county place-shaping programme. Working together will help strengthen our approach to creating environments that flourish by improving infrastructure, building good quality housing, improving air quality and ensuring connectivity and sustainability. We also want to make sure that we are focused on improving the built and natural environment for specific vulnerable groups for example by making them friendly for people living with dementia and people with autism, as well as by delivering better-focused housing and related support services for those at risk of homelessness.

How will we know when we have got there

Leadership and accountability are key to knowing if we are getting things right. The HWB will have oversight of progress against our strategic ambitions. The direction of travel indicators will be developed into an outcomes dashboard for the HWB, and the HWB will receive an annual performance report on progress.

Each HWP in Warwickshire will develop an implementation plan with clear performance measures based around the four components of the population health framework. The HWP action plans will be tailored to meet the specific needs of each place and will routinely report to the HWB.Local HWPs will work with the HWB Executive Officer Group to ensure wider determinants and access to services are addressed collectively at a local level whilst contributing to the overall vision for the system. This will enable the places to be the future engine room of the NHS.

We will evaluate the overall progress we have made on our three priorities after two years and take a view on if we should continue with these or focus our efforts on other priorities for the next two years. The HWB partners recognise that we are still yet to understand the full impact on Covid-19 across all areas of health and wellbeing. With this in mind, we will be monitoring progress against our priority areas routinely on a quarterly basis.

There are a number of needs assessments planned over the next two years which will help inform the delivery of our priorities, including a mental health needs assessment, health visiting and CAMHS. A partnership approach will be taken to the development of these, with local authority, CCG, and VCS involvement.

We will measure our progress by focusing on the impact that the strategy will have on people's lives. The Health and Wellbeing Board will choose indicators that will help us measure our progress over the lifetime of this Strategy. The Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board acknowledges that major change will not happen overnight, so we will be seeking gradual improvements in these indicators. Warwickshire's Health and Wellbeing Board will review progress with:

- Regular locality performance updates at a District and Borough level.

- Local reports at a CCG level.

- An annual review to the Health and Wellbeing Board Submission of action plans to Warwickshire Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Warwickshire's population health framework

key drivers behind our new Strategy and its implementation:

The double impact of harm which disproportionately impacts on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, and the most vulnerable individuals facing multiple deprivation and inequalities in health

An integrated recovery which looks across traditional organisational boundaries
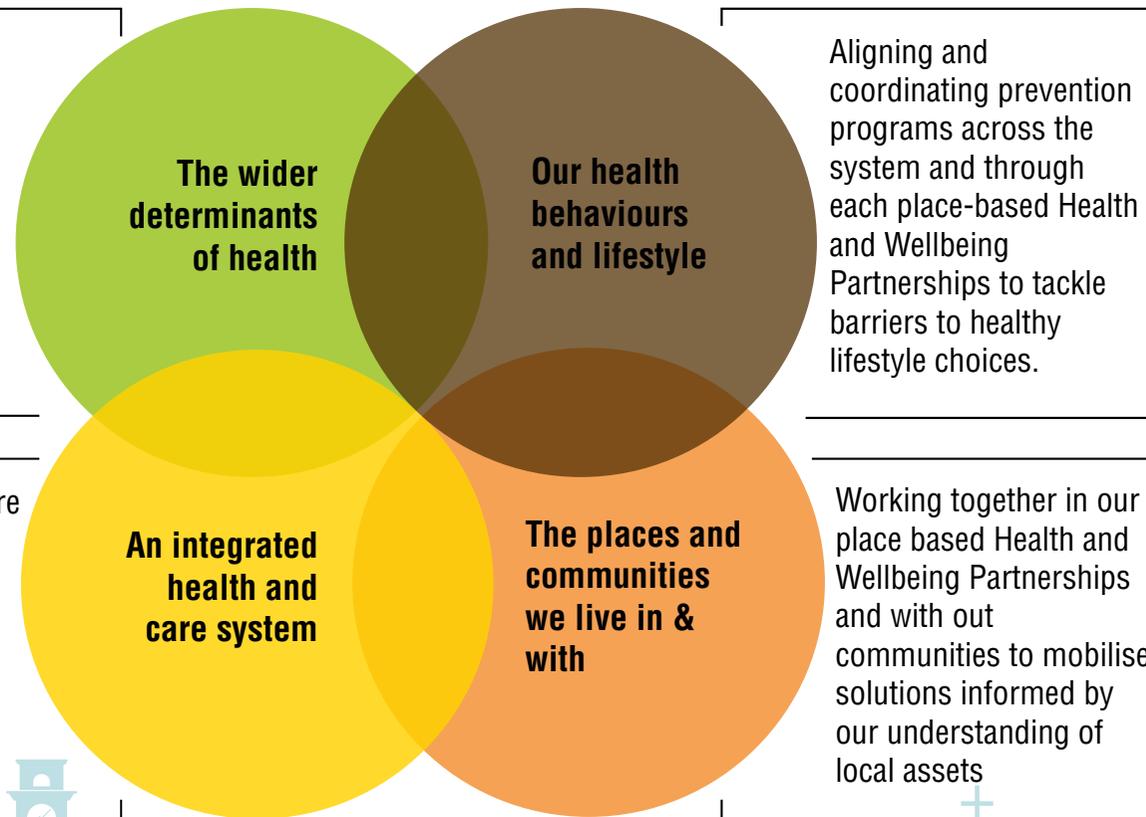
Our long-term strategic ambitions:

People will lead a healthy and independent life.

People will be part of a strong community.

People will experience effective and sustainable services.

Place-based Health and Wellbeing Partnerships will work together to tackle health inequalities by addressing the wider determinants of health.

Aligning and coordinating prevention programs across the system and through each place-based Health and Wellbeing Partnerships to tackle barriers to healthy lifestyle choices.

Our immediate focus:

Help our children and young people have the best start in life

Help people improve their mental health and wellbeing, particularly around prevention and early intervention in our communities

Reduce inequalities in health outcomes and the wider determinants of health

The wider determinants of health

Our health behaviours and lifestyle

An integrated health and care system

The places and communities we live in & with

Health and social care commissioners and providers working together at our place-based Health and Care Executives to commission and deliver services.

Working together in our place based Health and Wellbeing Partnerships and with out communities to mobilise solutions informed by our understanding of local assets

Our ways of working: • Prioritising prevention • Strengthening communities • Co-ordinating services • Sharing responsibility

References

1 https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework/data#page/0/gid/1000044/pat/302/par/E10000031/ati/301/are/E07000218/cid/4/page-options/ovw-do-0

2 2016-208 https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework/data#page/0/gid/1000049/pat/6/par/E12000005/ati/302/are/E08000025/cid/4/page-options/ovw-do-0

3 https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework/data#page/0/gid/1000049/pat/6/par/E12000005/ati/302/are/E08000025/cid/4/page-options/ovw-do-0

4 https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework/data#page/0/gid/1000042/pat/6/par/E12000005/ati/302/are/E08000025/cid/4/page-options/ovw-do-0

5 https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework/data#page/4/gid/1000042/pat/6/par/E12000005/ati/302/are/E10000031/iid/90284/age/26/sex/4/cid/4/page-options/ovw-do-0

6 https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/sexualhealth#page/4/gid/8000037/pat/6/par/E12000005/ati/302/are/E10000031/cid/4/page-options/ovw-do-0

7 https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/cypmh/data#page/4/gid/1938133090/pat/6/par/E12000005/ati/102/are/E10000031/iid/90813/age/305/sex/4/cid/4/page-options/ovw-do-0

8 Warwickshire Education Team

9 https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/suicide/data#page/0/page-options/ovw-do-0

10 https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1350011118-2946

11 https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/dementia#page/3/gid/1/pat/219/par/E54000018/ati/165/are/E38000038/iid/247/age/1/sex/4/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/ovw-do-0_car-do-0

12 https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/search/dementia#page/3/gid/1/pat/219/par/E54000018/ati/165/are/E38000038/iid/92949/age/27/sex/4/cid/4/tbm/1/page-options/ovw-do-0_car-do-0

13 https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1350011118-2946

14 https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/sn06385/

15 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892376/COVID_stakeholder_engagement_synthesis_beyond_the_data.pdf

16 https://data.warwickshire.gov.uk/housing/

17 https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-630-2139

18 WCC Covid-19 resident survey report (October 2020)

19 https://www.nhsconfed.org/resources/2020/07/the-role-of-health-and-care-in-the-economy

20 Health Foundation, 2019

21 https://www.happyhealthylives.uk/our-priorities/mental-health-and-emotional-wellbeing/improving-mental-health-and-emotional-wellbeing-in-coventry-and-warwickshire/

22 https://www.wmca.org.uk/what-we-do/thrive/thrive-at-work/about-the-programme/

[23] https://www.artshealthandwellbeing.org.uk/appg-inquiry/Publications/Creative_Health_Inquiry_Report_2017.pdf

[24] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-equity-assessment-tool-heat

[25] https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/projects/healthy-communities-together?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=12093921_NEWSL_HWB_2021_01_25&dm_i=21A8,777Q9,MHMO2R,T692O,1

[26] https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/Homes-health-and-COVID-19.pdf
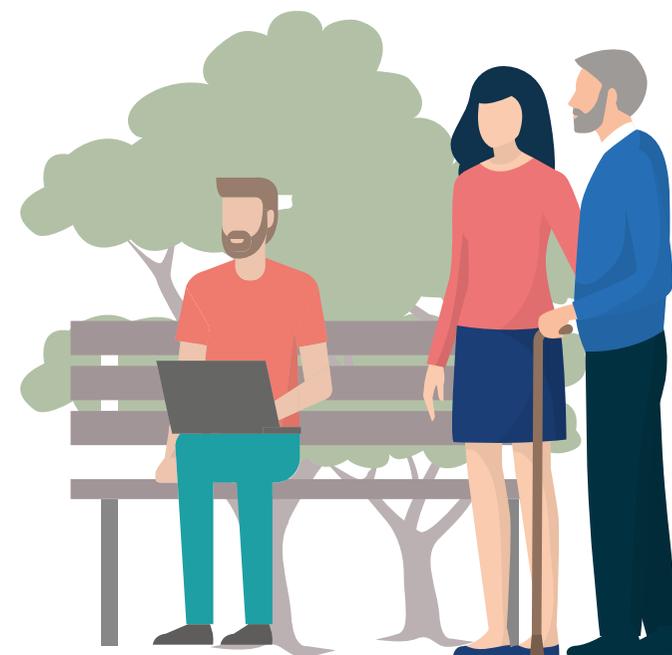
NHS
Warwickshire North
Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS
South Warwickshire
Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS
George Eliot Hospital
NHS Trust

NHS
South Warwickshire
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
Coventry and Rugby
Clinical Commissioning Group

NHS
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire
NHS Trust

NHS
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership
NHS Trust

WARWICKSHIRE
CAVA
COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ACTION

BOROUGH
RUGBY
COUNCIL

North Warwickshire
Borough Council

Nuneaton & Bedworth
United to Achieve

STRATFORD-ON-AVON
DISTRICT COUNCIL

WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Warwickshire County Council

west midlands
police and crime commissioner

Philip Seccombe
Police and Crime Commissioner
for Warwickshire

healthwatch
Warwickshire

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title: Temporary Appointment to Withybrook Parish
                              Council

Name of Committee: Council

Date of Meeting: 17 June 2021

Report Director: Chief Officer - Legal and Governance

Portfolio: Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance

Ward Relevance: Revel and Binley Woods

Prior Consultation: Mr T Moore - Withybrook Parish Council Clerk
                              Cllr Gillias - Parish Champion

Contact Officer: Sarah Chapman
                              Legal Services Team Leader / Deputy Monitoring
                              Officer
                              sarah.chapman@rugby.gov.uk
                              01788 533551

Public or Private: Public

Report Subject to Call-In: No

Report En-Bloc: Yes

Forward Plan: No

Corporate Priorities: This report relates to the following priority(ies):
                              ☐ Rugby is an environmentally sustainable place,
(C) Climate   where we work together to reduce and mitigate the
(E) Economy   effects of climate change. (C)
(HC) Health and Communities ☐ Rugby has a diverse and resilient economy that
(O) Organisation   benefits and enables opportunities for all residents.
                              (E)
                              ☐ Residents live healthy, independent lives, with
                              the most vulnerable protected. (HC)
                              ☒ Rugby Borough Council is a responsible,
                              effective and efficient organisation. (O)
                              Corporate Strategy 2021-2024
                              ☐ This report does not specifically relate to any
                              Council priorities but

Summary: Following the elections on 6 May 2021, insufficient
                              nominations were received to fill the ordinary

vacancies on Withybrook Parish Council and therefore the Parish Council is unable to act.

In pursuance of the power conferred upon it by s.91 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council may appoint persons to act as members of Withybrook Parish Council until such time that other councillors are elected or co-opted and can take up office.

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications arising from the report.

Risk Management Implications: There are no risk management implications arising from the report.

Environmental Implications: There are no environmental implications arising from the report.

Legal Implications: If the Council does not exercise its powers pursuant to s.91 of the Local Government Act 1972, Withybrook Parish Council will be unable to act until such time as a further election is called and sufficient members are elected to form a quorum. This will have a detrimental impact on the functioning of Withybrook Parish Council and its ability to meet its statutory obligations and deadlines.

Equality and Diversity: There are no equality and diversity implications arising from the report.

Options:
1. The Council to exercise its powers pursuant to s.91 of the Local Government Act 1972 and appoint a person to Withybrook Parish Council to enable the Parish Council to act and co-opt further councillors.

2. The Council not to exercise its powers pursuant to s.91 of the Local Government Act 1972. Withybrook will continue to be unable to act until such time as a further election is called and sufficient members are elected to form a quorum.

Recommendation: Cllr Gillias be appointed to act as a member of Withybrook Parish Council to render the Parish Council quorate.

Reasons for Recommendation: To enable the Parish Council to continue to function and fulfil its statutory obligations and deadlines.

Council - 17 June 2021

Temporary Appointment to Withybrook Parish Council

Public Report of the Chief Officer - Legal and Governance

Recommendation
Cllr Gillias be appointed to act as a member of Withybrook Parish Council to render the Parish Council quorate.

Introduction

Following the elections on 6 May 2021, insufficient nominations were received to fill the ordinary vacancies on Withybrook Parish Council and the Parish Council currently has two members.

Background information

S.21 of the Representation of the People Act 1985, allows Parish Councils to co-opt persons to fill those vacancies, provided the Parish Council is quorate.

Currently, the Parish Council has only two members and is therefore not quorate. As a result, the Parish Council is unable to act or to fill those vacancies by co-option.

The clerk of the Parish Council has approached the Council and requested that the Council exercise its powers under s.91 of the Local Government Act 1972, whereby the Council may appoint persons to Withybrook Parish Council until such time that other members are elected or co-opted and can take up office.

In exercising its powers and appointing a third member to Withybrook Parish Council, the Parish Council will become quorate and will then be able to exercise its powers under s.21 of the Representation of the People Act 1985 to co-opt further members.

In parallel with its exercise of powers under s.91 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council will continue to exercise its powers under s.39(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and invite further nominations to fill the vacancies on Withybrook Parish Council.

Conclusion

In order to ensure that Withybrook Parish Council can continue to function, carry out its statutory obligations, meet its statutory deadlines and co-opt further Parish Councillors, the Council should exercise its powers under s.91 of the Local Government Act 1972 and appoint a person to Withybrook Parish Council to establish a quorum.

Following discussions with Cllr Gillias, Parish Champion, Cllr Gillias has agreed to be appointed as a member of Withybrook Parish Council.

It is intended that Cllr Gillias will serve as a member of Withybrook Parish Council until such time that other members are elected or co-opted and can take up office. When Withybrook Parish Council is capable of being quorate without Cllr Gillias being a member of the Parish Council, it is intended that Cllr Gillias' role will come to an end.

Name of Meeting: Council

Date of Meeting: 17 June 2021

Subject Matter: Temporary Appointment to Withybrook Parish Council

Originating Department: Legal and Governance

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY   ☐ **YES**   ☒ **NO**

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

The background papers relating to reports on planning applications and which are open to public inspection under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, consist of the planning applications, referred to in the reports, and all written responses to consultations made by the Local Planning Authority, in connection with those applications.

☐ Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

Doc No	Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A