

Agenda item 7

For information – Year end review of the work programme 23/24 from the management group

Authors: Management group

Through the year we have provided regular progress reports to Council on delivery of the work programme. This is the final year end update. The table below provides the detail. Much of the planned work has been completed, some of it has rolled over into the current year while little progress has occurred due to changing circumstances or lack of external funding.

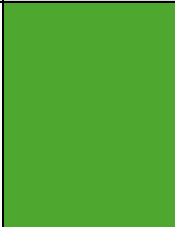
All managers will be present at the Council meeting to answer questions and provide more details if required. There will also be a short visual presentation at the meeting identifying highlights.

Open Spaces Programme

Project	Update at year end	Status
Convene people who use our open spaces to ensure existing groups are represented but also to reach out to other users whom we have not yet engaged	Engaging with local residents to undertake management plan reviews for each site. Showfield is first site. Play Area plans based on community input. Showfield Management plan review in April 24. Mary Baily/Vic Park Sept 24	
Work with the forum to consider resident involvement in the maintenance and development of open spaces	Ditto above	
Identify open spaces that we want to take on during the creation of the new Unitary	Active discussions with SC on possible land that might come to FTC as freehold transfer together with access to highways depot. Timeline is transfers likely before April 2025. All details TBC	
Consider how FTC would service and maintain a growing number of open spaces	Budget for one extra ranger, assistant ranger and associated equipment and vehicles approved in Jan Council meeting if extra land is taken on	
Work with housing and planning to agree which open spaces should be maintained and which could be made available for housing	Ongoing	

<p>Ensure our parks and open spaces are places that people value highly to enjoy, are accessible and inclusive, and support a wide range of outdoor activities and biodiversity</p>	<p>Review of management plans to ensure inclusivity New access paths installed in Egford and Broadway Community Gardens Broadway Community Garden –Phase 2 access works: ~July 24 Incidental play in Welshmill – co-design with St John’s school, now installed Showfield Play Park designed for inclusivity – now open Café and toilet refurbishment in Victoria Park – both now open Biodiversity assessed through iNaturalist record keeping Town Centre Ranger – making a clear contribution to upkeep and presentation and responsiveness for town centre. Post now permanent River habitat management at Rodden Meadow – review ongoing with Canoe club and Wild Trout Trust Working with Frome Families for the Future to explore better access to Rodden Meadow and destination platform by the River</p>	
<p>Other - Collaboration with partner agencies on land, works and maintenance across Open Spaces and the town</p>	<p>Ongoing as discussions arise Working with Frome Medical Practice, Friends of River Frome, and other relevant groups Community woodland site at Spring Gardens – Lease signed. Next step, manage fly grazing</p>	

Improve Planning & Deliver Affordable Housing Programme

Project	Update at year end	Status
<p>Take a more proactive approach to developers and developments to push forward what we want</p>	<p>Through pre-app discussions with developers, our strategic demands as set out in the Neighbourhood Plan, Town Design Statement and our Climate Emergency Planning Supplementary Document are made clear to developers. In the last year, pre-app discussions on major applications include Acorn Property Group for land at Saxonvale and Barwood Land for land at Oldford Hill</p>	

Create a Supplementary Planning Document detailing affordable housing	All the information to support a Frome SPD on affordable housing has been collated into a draft report to support 40% affordable housing. The document has not been published yet as the next steps need to be agreed	
Bring together a broad cross section of the community, including those that work in the support and housing sectors to give a balanced view of the problem and identify solutions	We continue to work with the Frome Area Community Land Trust. At all pre-app meetings with developers, we push for 40% affordable housing and direct them to FACLT to try and secure affordable housing in perpetuity. All planning consultation responses refer to the need for 40% affordable housing	
Develop and promote a bigger vision of Frome so the public can see the bigger picture	This will be part of the engagement on the upcoming Council Plan, which will ultimately be fed into the new Somerset Local Plan and any future revision of the Neighbourhood Plan	
Work with the new unitary council to improve enforcement of planning within the town.	We have had an initial discussion with the asset team about this, and how we could work together in monitoring new developments to ensure they are in line with the approved plans. Further progress on this is unlikely until Somerset Council have completed work on streamlining their delivery of core services	
Other - Collaboration, advocacy & influence across a wide range of projects important for the town	Working closely with Friends of the River Frome on the Adderwell Bridge project and the provision of a link to the Railway Station	

Reinvigorate the town centre

Project	Update at year end	
Define the actual town centre	Defined in report to Council in December 2023	
Engage with Somerset Highways and find a way to make the two crossing points to the BC pedestrian safe	We commissioned PJA Transport Planning (funded by Somerset Highways) to develop a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). Improving crossing points in the town centre was identified as a priority and this will help us to raise funding for design of a solution and implementation when funding allows. Sustrans are being engaged to explore how courtesy crossings could be	

	delivered in the Market Place following the successful delivery of this measure as part of the Frome Safer School Streets project.	
Develop a plan to ensure more trees and plants, more places to sit	A style guide has been prepared setting out broad principles for this work which is being considered separately on this Council agenda. Alongside this, Cllrs continue to engage with town centre stakeholders to develop plans for improving various parts of the town centre	
Identify key stakeholders in the town centre- property owners both residential and non-residential, tenants and business owners	Achieved at an early stage in the year and these relationships are being built upon in the delivery of various initiatives	
Bring together local independent businesses in the retail and hospitality sector with town centre premises at the Town Hall for a facilitated meeting to identify how we can work with them to enhance the town centre for locals and visitors alike	This work was facilitated by Cllrs with various meetings held with members of the business community	
We will monitor the situation regarding the collection of rubbish in the town centre and the cleanliness of the streets and press for improvements where necessary	Town Centre Ranger employed and making a difference in terms of town centre cleanliness. Environment Manager has worked with Somerset Council and ID Verde to secure improvements to street cleansing and waste collection in the town centre.	
Consider ways in which we can calm vehicle traffic by using planters and other street furniture to make the town centre feel safer and pedestrian friendly	See above action led by Nick Dove and progress on style guide	
Encourage and support local business to organise events in the town centre for example a cycling festival	A programme of events has been developed led by the Events Advisory Group. Plans for year-round street lighting have been developed and agreed. Successful events have taken place throughout the year, including a drone show this year.	
As part of our Unitary conversations, explore how greater control of the town centre car parks could bring mutual benefits	Discussions led by the Deputy Town Clerk have begun with senior officers at Somerset Council around developing a joint vision for the Frome Riverside area and this will provide an opportunity to pursue our interest in taking on	

	assets in this area including the Cattle Market Car Park and running the markets.	
Collaboration, advocacy & influence across a wide range of projects important for the town	We are working with Prosper Frome and other local stakeholders to produce a solution to the loss of banking facilities in the town and some options are currently being explored. We have worked with the owner of the former Shoe Zone premises to improve the visual amenity of the shopfront.	
Promoting the town to visitors and residents through Discover Frome	Discover Frome is the brand through which we promote the town pivoting on our visitor offer, independent shops, accommodation, events and local walking and cycling opportunities. It includes: a well-used up to date website; an information point which was moved to the library; a partnership to deliver a physical publication - The Annual, promoting shops, cafes and restaurants, galleries and venues and accommodation throughout the town; a network of noticeboard ambassadors to look after the noticeboards supporting events. Included in this is the You're Welcome scheme.	
Preservation, restoration & maintenance of Open Space assets	Work to date includes: On-going management of Boyle Cross including maintenance of the fountain, pop up electrics, seating and florals, new removable Bollards allowing improved vehicular access; preparation and delivery of Christmas tree and lights; Actively supporting use by the Markets; Managing bus shelters; Supporting other restoration initiatives such as Cockey lamp project in partnership with the FSLs; Liaising with Environment Agency over riverbank management; Looking after Chateau Gontier, its access and presentation.	

Protect community assets – Badgers Hill

Project	Update at year end	Status
Secure debt redemption and charge with possible ownership of land and ground as first step	FTC paid off the Goldchevron loan in 2022 and entered into an option agreement with the owner of Badgers Hill stadium, Frome Town Holdings Limited and Frome Town AFC Ltd (the Club). FTC secured a first legal charge on the site. By doing so, we averted potential repossession and closure of the site. The Council's option was exercised on 18 July 2023 and completed on 3 August with FTC becoming the freeholder of the site. At the same time, a 25-year lease was granted to the new Frome Town Community Benefit Society (FTCBS) and a licence to the Club.	
Ensure town is aware of possible problems and advantages of approach through press statements and continuing engagement	Our involvement has been shared widely with the community through all channels including on 11 August 2023, a combined statement on community ownership of the stadium by FTC, FTCBS and the Club. The news was front page in the Frome Times on 17 August. There was some further publicity around time of AGM in November 2023 and community engagement pre-submission of the planning application for a new changing room block in February 2024. But there is more to be done by the CBS.	
Set up Football Club Panel internal to council and then wider involvement to start campaign for community owned club	Councillors, staff, representatives of the Club and Football Supporters Association met to explore the potential for community ownership in September 2022. On 3 October 2022, a public meeting was held at the stadium attended by 120 people to share progress and discuss next steps. A large majority supported the establishment of a community benefit society to protect the long-term future of the ground and ultimately to enable local "one person one vote" control of the Club.	
Visit examples of community owned clubs and identify lessons	Lewes, Peacehaven and Chippenham were visited earlier on in the process and there has been desk top research too. The lessons learned were fed into planning for FTCBS.	
Work with the club to develop a new strategy	Whilst FTC's primary aim was to protect the site for community use rather than just save the football Club, a working group bringing together the Club,	

	FTC and external advisors met in August and September 2022 to complete a financial review of the Club and recommendations were made to the company's Board around ways to strengthen its financial position. Since then, the Club has recruited new Board members who have attracted new sponsorship and other income, but work is still in progress led by the Club's new Financial Director.	
Agree the approach to community club and if necessary, start a share issue campaign. Ensure maximum public engagement and generate excitement across the town and in the immediate area	FTC facilitated project work involving community stakeholders to consider governance issues, facilities and funding and community engagement. FTCBS has now been formed and Board members have been recruited to the Board. FTC paid for the services of a consultant, Johannes Moeller, to help FTCBS become established and raise funding. A membership offer was launched in Autumn 2023 but with limited take up. It is now down to FTCBS to generate the excitement that was hoped for.	
Develop a plan for delivering new facilities that can be enjoyed by both the club and the wider community	An architect has been commissioned to finalise plans for urgent repairs to the Clubhouse and the installation of new changing rooms and meeting rooms/classrooms to be enjoyed by the Club and wider community. A planning application for new changing rooms was submitted in March 2024 and a determination is awaited. Approx £500k of grant aid has been awarded to enable these works to proceed and the focus is now on delivery by the end of 2024.	
Ensure that we see a return on our investment to enable us to invest and/or support other valuable community assets	A 25-year lease has been granted to FTCBS with 5 yearly rent reviews. It is expected to generate in the region of £400k in rental income over the term.	

Address the climate & ecological emergencies

Project	Update at year end	Status
Support the independent development of climate and biodiversity community groups and initiatives.	Regular links in with Sustainable Frome, Frome Food Network, Future Shed. The Climate Action Lead will have a responsibility for coordinating the efforts of local community groups. Continued support for The Wild Bunch.	

Promote resilience & reduction of carbon across all FTC activities	Solar panels on Town Hall continue to make a difference in terms of energy efficiency. New bike shelter installed and will assist in driving more active travel – something that we will step up through the School Streets trial from April. Plans for Badgers Hill repairs and improvements include energy efficiency measures and renewable energy generation.	
Understand the impacts of climate and ecological breakdown on Frome, review strategy to mitigate these at a town level, and consider adaptations we can make.	This will be a key area of work in 2024/25 and will be picked up by Climate Action Lead when recruited.	
Communicate the work we are doing to respond to the climate and ecological emergency and build resilience as a town and encourage residents to participate in and contribute to climate action.	We are updating our website to provide greater prominence to the work in this area and the new Climate Action Lead will work with the Marketing & Communications Team to update our Communications Plan	
Campaign for sustainable future developments, and support and encourage Housing Associations (HAs) to access funding for retrofitting projects.	All HAs with housing stock in Frome were contacted to find out how many properties they have which are EPC D or below, and what their plans are to meet new legal requirements by 2030. These responses have been followed up and discussions are ongoing around how retrofit plans can be implemented.	
Support FRECo (Frome's energy company) to acquire land and build community-owned wind turbines in and for Frome alongside exploring new opportunities for solar, microgrids and other renewable generation.	FRECo wind turbine project put on hold due to lack of grid capacity. Participating in stakeholder group for Somerset's energy investment plan, to address this and other issues. Meetings held with prospective developers of Saxonvale to discuss how FRECO's microgrid proposal can be implemented.	
Explore opportunities to develop the Good Business framework to increase impact, including energy savings and carbon reduction	Lack of capacity to deliver this project through 2023/24. Climate Action Lead to explore how we can have greater impact in reducing carbon emissions in the commercial sector	
Review provision for food growing in Frome, including allotments, and encourage community growing projects.	Broadway Community Gardens established. Climate Action Lead to take the lead in mapping the food grown in and around Frome and explore how food resilience can be developed through a thriving local food network.	

Promote and campaign for better public transport infrastructure and greater use of it in Frome	Bus shelters improved. FTC campaigning for electric buses in Frome. Supported bid for DfT De-carbonisation funding. Whilst that was unsuccessful, a strong partnership has been established bringing together FTC, Somerset Council, Somerset Bus Partnership, The Big Lemon, Frome Community Hospital and Frome Medical Practice to promote bus improvements in Frome. Exploring potential for electric bus charging at Badgers Hill.	
Apply for funding and promote agreements with developers that support Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) infrastructure improvements	LCWIP being used to engage with developers. Lack of clarity from SC about LCWIP delivery - FTC not eligible to apply for active travel funding through DfT.	
Promote and support circular economy initiatives developed through Loop de Loop, Edventure, and other organisations.	Keep It Frome page on FTC website - directory for organisations supporting circular economy. Work to find a location for a reuse centre is being progressed through our Asset & Service Devolution project.	
Lobby for divestment (SCC Pension Fund)	Brunel have a firm policy in favour of engagement over divestment. They have surpassed their targets for reducing carbon intensity of their portfolios so far. Thanks to pressure from Cllr Anne Hills, Sarah Williams and Somerset officers, Somerset pensions committee has moved 25% of investments into a Paris aligned portfolio.	
Develop signposted network of walking and cycling routes (subject to external funding)	Linked to LCWIP delivery - no clear funding pathway yet but Planning & Development Manager is working on this.	
Provide (subject to funding) through the Green & Healthy Frome Partnership, Healthy Homes, Evaluation, Cycle Together & Fair Frome projects	As below	
Develop the ability for residents and communities to save on energy bills and retrofit their homes through the Healthy Homes programme, and creating a street level retrofit project (subject to CAF funding)	Joanna Morris (Resilience Officer) and Sally Richards (Community Retrofit Lead) are working together to engage the community in insulating and retrofitting their homes to enable people to save money on their energy bills. There has been good take up of these services assisted by a Home Energy Advice Volunteer Coordinator (employed by FTC and funded by FRECo) who has been successful in recruiting volunteers who are imparting advice to	

	householders. See below for further details and a proposal to extend the Volunteer Coordinator contract beyond March 2024 utilising Lottery funding.	
Cycle Together	In 2023/24, FTC entered into an agreement with Frome Community Bike Project to deliver Cycle Together and the hire of e-bikes and other services are now delivered by them. 8 new e-bikes have been purchased with Lottery funding considerably expanding the resource. See below for further details of Cycle Together.	
Evaluation	The Climate Action Researcher (Owen King) has put in place a process for evaluating all the partners' work and is supporting other FTC strands that require evaluation. See below for further details.	
Promote and support circular economy initiatives developed through Loop de Loop, Edventure, and other organisations.	Keep It Frome page on FTC website - directory for organisations supporting circular economy. Work to find a location for a reuse centre is being progressed through our Asset & Service Devolution project.	
Lobby for divestment (SCC Pension Fund)	Brunel have a firm policy in favour of engagement over divestment. They have surpassed their targets for reducing carbon intensity of their portfolios so far. Thanks to pressure from Cllr Anne Hills, Sarah Williams and Somerset officers, Somerset pensions committee has moved 25% of investments into a Paris aligned portfolio.	
GHF partnership	FTC and partners, Edventure and Frome Medical Practice succeeded in securing £1.7m for the period up to 2026 to deliver Green & Healthy Frome project. In 2023/24, the team at FTC has been expanded and now includes a 4 day per week evaluation role, a Community Retrofit Lead and Home Energy Advice Volunteer Coordinator.	
Support the Wildlife Mapping Project in partnership with SERC and look at ways of further encouraging engagement, through schools in particular.	3,074 observations recorded by local residents so far this year. Mapping being put in place for our open spaces. Frome College engaged with wildlife mapping now. With Joanna Morris now working with the Environment Team, there is greater capacity to support the development of our open space management plans to promote biodiversity.	

Promote and support food resilience initiatives developed through the Frome Food Network and other organisations.	FTC is working towards taking on the lease of Loop de Loop building and has completed cleaning and electrical work to allow Edventure to use the building for the Community Fridge and other activities.	
Retain Plastic Free Champions Awards	Award retained for 2023/24	
As part of our conversation with the new Somerset Council, make the case for a town-wide transport strategy for Frome that prioritises active and sustainable travel and includes metrics that measure success.	Initial positive discussions and promise of £20k funding for Movement Strategy, but no funding or commitment yet from Somerset Council. The Planning & Development Manager is pushing Somerset Council to provide support for this project.	
Work in partnership with residents, local schools, and stakeholders to influence behaviour change to more sustainable and playful modes of transport	Encouraging behaviour change is a significant challenge but we have an opportunity through Frome Safer School Streets and other initiatives with their emphasis on improving safety and wellbeing to secure commitment.	
Monitor and evaluate the 18 months trial of School Streets and continue engagement with residents and schools.	Infrastructure works commenced in February 2024. Trial was due to start at beginning of summer term 2024. Evaluation will involve utilising traffic counts, air quality monitoring, speed monitoring using new SID and qualitative surveys. An engagement programme with schools and residents is continuing.	

Marketing and communications

Project	Update at year end	Status
Develop a strategic programme of Marketing and Communications to include community projects, marketing the town and the Town Hall	Completed and delivered	
Support and increase the range of information available to residents about community-based projects, activities, and services available to them for the purposes of both well-being, engagement, and civic pride	Delivered timely PR across the work programme for the purposes of engaging the town capacity allowing; FTC Website+ digital tools; Deliver and support events, meetings and activities - including shaping, marketing, ticketing and communicating;	

	<p>Implement programme of digital communications utilising social media with measurable results; Deliver a series of newsletters to support areas across the work programme, to include Frome Matters, Community groups and Business Update; Recruit summer placement to support the workload; Support all projects to include school streets, GHF programme including edition of Retrofit events, town-wide engagements, FIND, parks and open spaces engagement, resilience programme and Football club and Town Centre initiatives; Support the noticeboard ambassadors; Creating engaging print media and branding for projects.</p>	
<p>Improve the image of and pride in the town making it attractive for visitors and investors identifying events, businesses and walking and cycling as visitor offer</p>	<p>Deliver Discover Frome website & social media on an ongoing basis Support town events where applicable Support Discover Frome Information Point and volunteers Continue to market Frome as an exciting business base for ethical, green, socially-engaged businesses in partnership with others, GHF, Loop Support the publication and distribution of The Annual Support the arts, heritage and events community through strategic links and partnerships</p>	
<p>Develop and support ways for the community to participate and engagement</p>	<p>Events and engagement activities were facilitated throughout the work programme including Hustings, Climate Action Meeting etc. Support promote and deliver public meetings such as housing crisis meeting</p>	
<p>Ensure the Town Hall is accessible, well used and fit for purpose</p>	<p>Ensure quality stewardship to provide warm welcome to all users Town Hall well maintained and clean and all risk actively managed Town Hall marketing strategy promoted to community groups and users Promotion of the Community Hub.</p>	

<p>To create, support and deliver a programme of events supporting civic life across the work programme and in our parks and open spaces</p>	<p>We have supported and enabled community events in Parks and Open Spaces; Enabled and supported the safe delivery of market stalls and encouraged community access to the Boyle Cross.</p> <p>Events - Delivered GBGW, 3 delivered Donate IT events, Christmas Light Switch on, Remembrance Day parade, the Walking Festival, a Wassail, the Drone Show, facilitated Frome Busks, Great British Spring Clean, and the International Women’s Day celebration; and supported creation of marketing materials, marketing, and delivery of numerous other events across the work programme and throughout the town.</p>	
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Unitary Programme

Project	Update at year end	Status
<p>Convene the relevant people to build on the work of mapping social and community assets to ensure that the ‘FIND’ scheme covers the whole area</p>	<p>The local Somerset Champion, Melody Hunter-Evans, is funded by SC under their Connect Somerset initiative and FTC manages. Focus at present is working to align the work of Connect Somerset and FTC, with a focus on Children, Young People and Families.</p> <p>The Frome Area CYP Working group continues to grow its stakeholders and focuses on the ‘early help’ offer for Frome’s Children, Young People and Families.</p>	
<p>Support, in partnership with other parish councils, and public service organisations and the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector the development of a comprehensive early help offer</p>	<p>Community Hub in the Town Hall is going from strength to strength. Current offer is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Hub for Displaced People • Wellbeing support for Displaced People • English for speakers of other languages classes for individuals and groups • Birth Talks Counselling sessions and Baby Loss Support Group • Somerset Council drop in point 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens Advice • Young Somerset • Parent Support Group for Neuro diverse children • Healthy Little Ones – Health Visitors • SEND Navigators Drop in sessions <p>Exploratory project planning about to start on understanding current early help offer, what is needed by community and impact of SC cuts. This will lead on to the development of a comprehensive early help offer.</p>	
Build the local community network and submit the outcome to the County wide evaluation exercise	Complete	
Support and develop the work of the Local Community Network as a major route to influencing provision in Frome and surrounding areas.	Continue to work with stakeholders to establish priorities for LNC. Work to build the local plan and ensure buy in from public services in progress.	
Convene the relevant people to create a vision for the cultural quarter and town centre	Somerset Council and FTC working together to develop a co-designed vision to take forward the Frome Riverside Project.	
Develop a fully costed and modelled business case that describes the benefits to all parties (of a unitary town deal)	Activist report to advise FTC on progressing the Frome Devolution Deal completed and to be submitted to FTC for adoption and next steps.	
Create a plan for the managed transfer of assets to the Council	<p>The following will form part of the Frome Deal and are projects that are in the “due diligence”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of a series of open spaces including access to SC highways depot (very early stages) • Transfer of The Key Centre and adjoining Mount Community Garden (very early stages) 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenancy at will arrangement in place for toilets in Market Yard car park. FTC cleaning, SC paying for repairs. Ongoing due diligence required prior to agreeing longer term arrangement with SC • Service Level Agreement with SC over CCTV provision in the town centre in draft format 	
Promote our business case by obtaining cross-party support and engaging with the new Somerset council	Somerset Cllrs are aware and supportive of our devolution goals. More detailed work with them required once FTC agreed next steps.	

Core Business Services

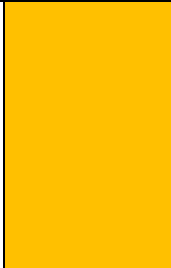
Project	Update at year end	Status
HR service	Support for integration of 12 new or replacement staff in 2023-24 including a new Business Administrator Becca Evans who alongside becoming a vital cog in the Business Admin wheel has become FTC's inhouse IT support first stop alongside Hannah.	
IT support service	9 new laptops commissioned	
Internet & mobile support	Set up internet in the Rangers yard	
IT upgrade project	Tenders received in excess of budget (by at least twice the estimated amount. Tenders to be broken down into essential works & projects and negotiated with contractors.	
Legal services	New and renewed leases and licences with Victoria Park Bowls Club and Victoria Park Community Cafe, Frome Learning Partnership and Frome FM at the Town Hall.	

Maintaining updated efficient software for use across finance and administrative systems	Prepare for transition to new software for finance (Xero - April24), town hall bookings (Lemon Bookings - April24) and HR (IRIS – Staffology - June24)	
Constitution/policies reviewed	Health & Safety reviewed and Lone Working Policy introduced. Financial Regulations updated.	
Directory of Council papers and decisions created	Directory of Council decisions created and updated regularly for Cllrs & Staff use: Agenda Directory of docs.xlsx	

Reduce Poverty

Project	Update at year end	Status
Gather information we need and understand what the situation is in our neighbourhoods in four areas of need - food, energy, housing & income	Community engagement officers appointed and town wide engagement events begun. Secondary data project begun. Focused engagement work with targeted groups and collation of secondary information to provide evidence base for next council plan.	
Bring together VCFSE organisations that are working across Frome, identify the people most at risk and monitor gaps in the current provision.	FTC continue to host and facilitate forums and contribute to existing forums in order to continue to monitor and address gaps and opportunities with professionals and stakeholders. Working to re-establish the Youth Forum in partnership with the YMCA.	
Improve access to existing support (financial, practical, emotional) for those in need everyone eligible & wanting to claim welfare benefits are claiming.	We continue to work with CA and other agencies to improve access to information and advice. To have a strategic vision for a robust Community Offer across different localities in Frome (and the surrounding areas).	
We will work to join together the various initiatives stemming from the County Council, the NHS and community groups so that they create a help hub (digital & physical)	This ongoing project is now funded through Connect Somerset (FTC's CYP Officer is fully funded to reach these objectives) Children and YP's projects starting in Summer 2024	

Provide practical resources, support, advice and training at a street level to neighbourhoods identified as most in need to reduce poverty and mitigate cost of living increases	FTC's community development programme continues to create, support and facilitate street level initiatives which in turn enable opportunities for enhanced community cohesion and connectivity, signposting support and advice. Continue to develop street level activity as a mechanism for engagement and understanding of the lived experience of residents, and for enabling people to take action for themselves.	
Provide support for existing VCFSE organisations initiatives that can be used by all residents.	The development of a VCFSE network to support their sustainability and collaboration. Advice sessions with Ruth Knagg to support organisations, and regular networking events at the Town Hall that join organisations together. Responsive support (training, resources) as required.	
Create and distribute information and signposting material for Frome residents detailing local information about sources of help	The comms team created and distributed a leaflet to all households in Frome: Living Well in Frome. A series of September 2024 events planned for the promotion of FIND	
To support the management of the refugee hub for the Frome area on behalf of CHARIS/Somerset Council	The two Hub advise officers are fully funded by CHARIS. Funded until March 2025	
Deploy the Grant Fund to specific VCFSE organisations and to Fair Frome.	A number of organisations were funded through this fund to fill gaps in existing provision and support the aims of the council strategy. A portion of the grants budget is held to support organisations at risk of closure on a case-by-case basis. Continue to evaluate and adapt if necessary format of Grant programme delivery.	
Explore how partners can improve the training and business incubation offer in the Town to keep people out of poverty	To explore a scoping exercise with colleagues at SC linked to the unitary / LCN working group	

<p>Development of the Play Strategy</p>	<p>Show Field Play Park open. Wider Engagement events at the Showfield complete – April 2024 Welshmill Woods development started – April 2024. Working alongside the Comms and Environmental Teams on management plans for Mary Bailey/Victoria Park. Engagement at Egford Park – September 2024 Through support for play organisations such as Scrapstore, Pod, Super Roots.</p>	
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