



CABINET: 8 June 2021

Report of: Corporate Director of Place & Community

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor I Moran

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SUBJECT: COMMISSIONING A COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING PROJECT

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update Cabinet on the work plan against the Terms of Reference of the Community Wealth Building Cabinet working group.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET

2.1 That progress is noted.

2.2 That a Community Wealth Building Specialist is recruited to take forward and support the development of a Community Wealth Building Strategy at a total cost of £15,000.

2.3 That delegated authority is given to the Corporate Director of Transformation & Resources in consultation with the portfolio holder for Economic Regeneration to lead the work of the consultant.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Community Wealth Building Working Group was set up in September 2019 to investigate the opportunities available.

3.2 The following Terms of Reference were established.

- To contribute to (when appropriate) and consider the outcomes of the study being commissioned through Lancashire Leaders, which will explore the principles and the "Preston Model" and how it could potentially be scaled up

across Lancashire, as well as exploring other social value good practice, and how it could be applied to West Lancashire;

- To commission a report on the development of a strategic approach to community wealth building in West Lancashire Borough Council;
- To commission research and gather evidence on barriers to Community Wealth Building in West Lancashire and identify solutions to those barriers;
- To recommend to Cabinet/Council the actions leading to the development of a Community Wealth Building Strategy and report on the next steps;
- To consider the role of other local organisations in developing Community Wealth Building initiatives.

3.3 In order to increase understanding, identify opportunities and action the Terms of Reference, the following work has been completed:

- 3 working group meetings have taken place; there was a pause from March 2020 to January 2021 as a result of Covid-19.
- Working group members attended workshop, alongside a number of partner agencies, held by Edge Hill University
- Planned and delivered a CWB workshop for Members and Staff with subject expert to increase the knowledge within WLBC – funded by Edge Hill University
- WLBC Officers were interviewed as part of Edge Hill University project - Growing the Small Local Enterprise Sector in Skelmersdale
- Researched approaches taken by other Local Authorities in developing an approach to CWB

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The Working Group have identified that Community Wealth Building aligns with the current Council Plan and Vision. Consequently, actions towards the Council Vision will also substantially lead to the fulfilment of CWB objectives.

4.2 It is recognised that CWB is an emerging and specialist agenda and there would be an opportunity to significantly accelerate WLBC's activity in this area with the support of specialist knowledge for a short period of time. This follows the model of other Council's in the North West. In line with the Terms of Reference of the Cabinet Working Group a specialist could help to deliver the following areas of work:

- Support the council in feeding into the Lancashire Leaders Study of the Preston Model and how it can be applied in West Lancashire (ToR1);
- Guide and support the work towards developing a Community Wealth Building and Procurement Strategy to underpin the Council Vision and support local businesses and the community (ToR2 and ToR4);
- Review the research by Edge Hill University on challenges/barriers to CWB in West Lancashire and support the council in defining solutions to overcome those and other yet to be defined challenges (ToR3);
- To consider the role of other local organisations in developing Community Wealth Building initiatives (ToR5).

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Through the implementation of community wealth building, it is envisaged that a more sustainable economy will be created through the retention of the pound within West Lancashire and further investment in workforce development.
- 5.2 Community wealth building can help to create a fairer economy and create new opportunities for local businesses and communities.
- 5.3 The identification of anchor institutes to be involved in the project will help to maximise the opportunities in re-circulate the West Lancashire Pound further.
- 5.4 As a focus of CWB is about accessing goods, services and employment at a local level, this provides a positive impact on associated carbon emissions created through a reduction in travel and logistics.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The cost of progressing delivering the activity outlined in 4.2 would be no more than £15,000. This amount was allocated to the CWB Cabinet Working Group at September 2019 Cabinet.

7.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The actions referred to in this report are covered by the scheme of delegation to officers and any necessary changes have been made in the relevant risk registers.

8.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

The decision does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and / or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

None