

# **HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 7 March 2022**

## **HEDGE END, WEST END AND BOTLEY LOCAL AREA ACTION PLAN 2022/23**

### **Report of the Local Area Manager**

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#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (1) Note the progress to date on identified projects and priorities during 2021/2022; and**
  - (2) Approve the Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB) Local Area Action Plan Priorities 2022/23 shown in Appendix Two for adoption and publication.**
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#### **Summary**

This report provides updates regarding the progress made on priorities identified in the HEWEB Local Area Action Plan 2021/22. It goes on to set out the priorities for next year for the Local Area Committee. The new Local Area Action Plan for 2022/23 is presented to the Committee for its approval.

#### **Statutory Powers**

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, i.e. the Local Authority's general power of competence, including power to act for the benefit of its area or persons resident or present in its area.

## **Strategic Implications**

1. This report contributes towards a number of the key objectives in the Corporate Plan 2015-2025 through enhancements to the local environment, support for health and wellbeing, provision of infrastructure and reinvigoration of Hedge End Town Centre. It is in line with the Local First approach which focuses on local need and local priorities and contributes to the achievement of the Council's vision set out in the Corporate Plan.

## **Introduction**

2. The Council has set out its vision for the direction it will take in the coming years in the Corporate Plan 2015-2025. This vision is:

‘...developing a strong and sustainable economy that supports improved standards of living for residents; promoting thriving and healthy communities; and maintaining an attractive and sustainable environment that residents value.’

It serves as the guiding principle that has informed the development of key Borough-wide objectives contained within the Corporate Plan to improve the quality of life for all.

3. The Council seeks to enable decisions to be made at the most appropriate local level, most notably through the five Local Area Committees, but also through our town and parish councils and other local partnerships.
4. In line with this Local First approach, in 2019 this Committee approved a Community Investment Programme (CIP) for 2019-2024 which prioritises local projects and initiatives. The CIP is developed in conjunction with Hedge End Town Council and West End and Botley Parish Councils. It is used to negotiate Section 106 legal agreement contributions from developers which frequently form the majority of the funds required to deliver the project. This rolling programme is in the process of being updated for 2021-2026 and will be considered for approval by the Committee in due course.
5. The CIP and Corporate Plan inform discussions around the key priorities for HEWEB for the coming year, which form part of the Local Area Action Plan (LAAP). This LAAP is used to inform budgets and resources as part of the Council's annual business planning cycle; and provides a written statement of the Committee's priorities for that year. It highlights the key local partnerships within the local area as well as outlining the roles of the Committee and the Local Area Manager.

## **Progress in 2021**

6. A summary review of progress on this Committee's current LAAP for 2021-22 is contained within Appendix One of this report. Whilst the effects of the Covid restrictions continue to be evident for some projects, there has been encouraging progress in other areas.

7. The proposed Hedge End, West End and Botley Local Area Action Plan Priorities for 2022/23 are based on the review in Appendix One, with ongoing priorities or the next stage of longer-term projects identified. Two new projects to enhance community facilities have been added, together with a priority to seek to influence the provision of local health care.
8. Local Councillors have been consulted on this updated Plan and it is now recommended that the HEWEB Local Area Action Plan Priorities 2022/23 are approved for adoption and publication as shown in Appendix Two.

### **Financial Implications**

9. There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations. A number of projects identified are also corporate priorities with funding and resourcing already considered corporately, eg. Itchen Valley Country Park and the former Budgens site. Berrywood Fields is a live project and has resources allocated. Engagement with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is ongoing and staff resources are already committed. The Telegraph Woods and New Place projects relate to the scoping of projects rather than project delivery and the preparation of the Project Initiation Matrix by the Local Area Manager will inform the level of staff resource and funding required for this feasibility stage of the projects. Should staff resource be identified as a key constraint in delivery of these priorities, alternative options can be presented to this Committee. Funding for projects is approved via separate reports usually to this Committee or the Council's Cabinet. The Wildern Nature Reserve priority has been identified as one where staff resource may be an issue. This is dependent on the scale of the land transfer required which is currently being explored in conjunction with Hedge End Town Council. Once this has been established, all reasonable options will be considered. If additional funding is required, this would be presented to this Committee for consideration in the usual manner.

### **Risk Assessment**

10. As discussed above, there is the potential for a lack of corporate resource to impact the delivery of projects, with Wildern Nature Reserve being at greatest risk. However, the Action Plan does not commit the Committee to a single delivery route for the project, therefore, should staff resource be a key constraint, alternative options can be considered including the use of external contractors if appropriate. The majority of the identified priorities are low risk due to staff and financial resources already being allocated.
11. The development and approval of this Plan informs and supports the allocation of resources to enable focused delivery of projects for the local area. Delivery of local projects would be adversely affected without the Plan.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

12. The Equality Act is relevant to the decision in this report, however existing projects have been previously assessed and the new projects are at concept stage and will be assessed in terms of equality and diversity implications as

part of the Council's Project Management process which will be approved by the relevant Project Board. It is therefore not considered necessary to carry out an assessment at this time.

## **Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

13. The Plan supports environmental enhancements through, for example, delivery of the masterplan project at Itchen Valley Country Park, and the development of a woodland management and improvement plan at Telegraph Woods.
14. The Plan encourages a positive behaviour change for residents through the provision of enhanced sports facilities and green spaces. Considered management of woodland and open spaces promotes environmental resilience and provides educational opportunities to teach people about the natural environment.
15. Major development sites meet BREEAM requirements and align to internal and statutory external regulations to protect and enhance the environment.

## **Conclusion**

16. This report briefly sets out the process that has informed the development of the draft HEWEB Local Area Action Plan Priorities 2022/23. The Action Plan Priorities are therefore presented to the Committee as shown in Appendix Two for approval.

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LOCAL AREA MANAGER

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Appendices Attached: 2

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D**

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

List Background Papers:

Eastleigh Borough Council Corporate Plan 2015-2025  
HEWEB Community Investment Programme 2019-24  
HEWEB Local Area Action Plan 2021/22