

REPORT FROM: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES MANAGER

TO: Nelson Committee

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BRADLEY BIG LOCAL

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Members on progress with the Bradley Big Local.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the report is noted and work on the Bradley Big Local continues to receive the support of Members.
- (2) That further progress reports be submitted to the Executive and Nelson Area Committee.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) To enable the Council to continue to act as the Locally Trusted Organisation for Bradley Big Local.

BACKGROUND

1. In early 2012 Pendle Council, the Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service and Pendle Community Network were successful in securing Big Local funding for Bradley: £1m over ten years. The funding is from the Big Lottery and is delivered through the Big Local Trust.
2. This is a resident-led initiative, driven by a partnership that is at least 51% residents. The Bradley Big Local Partnership decides how the funding will be used based on an action plan agreed with the Big Local Trust and takes responsibility for delivering the action plan. The funding is used to implement the action plan, rather than being open to bids from other projects. The funding can be used on spend or on investment with income from the latter re-invested in the action plan.

3. The Partnership's first action plan was approved by the Big Local Trust in early 2015. The action plan focused on five themes:
- **Commissioning Programme Support:** to help the Partnership develop the action plan into deliverable projects with resident input and attract match funding from other sources.
 - **Community Wealth:** to raise aspirations, promote entrepreneurship and bring empty business premises back into use.
 - **Community Land Trust:** to provide a vehicle for asset transfer and to promote the create use of neglected land sites.
 - **Community Housing:** to bring empty properties back into use and to promote ethical lettings
 - **Community Recreation:** to improve opportunities for play and healthy lifestyles
4. In 2016 the Partnership submitted a revised action plan detailing projects and associated costs to be delivered over a two year period under the five themes. The revised action plan was approved in October 2016 with approval to spend £544,000.

Recent Partnership activity and discussions will feed into a refreshed Action Plan and include issues around the wellbeing of Bradley residents. The Partnership is considering either changing Community wealth to Community Wellbeing or adding a new Community Wellbeing theme.

5. The projects in the revised action plan were:
- Continued Programme Support
 - An after-school project jointly funded with Pendle Vale Community College to improve attainment and raise aspirations
 - Money Management project in partnership with Pennine Community Credit Union aimed at supporting families and, in particular, young people to manage their finances
 - Business Start-Up project to support Bradley's entrepreneurs to bring business premises in Bradley back into use
 - English as a Second Language (ESOL) provision for both Asian-heritage and Eastern European communities in Bradley to enable better access to employment opportunities
 - Community Grants to enable groups in the community to kick-start projects based on the vision and priorities of the action plan
 - The Bradley Big Local Community Land Trust and future governance of the Trust as a Community Interest Organization (CIO)
 - Supporting projects identified and priorities by the Bradley Big Local Land Trust.
 - Development of new housing in partnership with Pendle borough Council, to be owned by Bradley Big Local community Land Trust.
 - Upgrading and expanding the Hodge House play area; a flagship project to show the value of Bradley Big Local and raise its profile.
 - To complement the improvements to Hodge House play area, the installation of adult outdoor gym equipment for parents of children using the play area and for older residents in the locality with a view to improving health and fitness, and reducing social isolation and loneliness.
6. The Partnership agreed a bottom-up project management approach with each project being led by a resident agreed by the Partnership and supported by the LTO or another appropriate agency. The project managers report to the three themed groups who in turn are accountable to the Partnership which remains the responsible body for agreeing

projects and spend, with the Council as Locally Trusted Organisation (LTO) remaining the accountable body for the funding.

Programme Update

7. **Programme Support** – continues to help the Partnership develop and refresh the action plan and provide support to the project leads. The Partnership has agreed to extend the Programme Support work for a further six months until December 2017 in order to finish off support for existing projects, look at support for future projects, undertake community engagement and refresh the Action Plan. Programme Support is now based at the Grassroots Centre in Leeds Road where the Partnership rents space to promote Bradley Big Local in the community and for meetings; events and delivery of its projects.
8. **Bradley After School Education Support (BASES)** - is a social enterprise jointly developed between Pendle Vale College and the Bradley Big Local Partnership. Specialist tuition in Maths, English and Science will be offered to pupils in years 10 and 11. Delivery will be at Grassroots on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Cost of sessions will be between £10 and 15 per session. A Board of Directors has been set up which includes the Chair and residents from the Bradley Big Local Partnership and staff from the College. An Outreach Worker has been appointed for 10 hours per week on a two year contract. Tutors will be recruited by Pendle Vale College to commence in September.
9. **Money Management** – despite widespread advertising across Bradley to gauge interest within the community for money management workshops, no interest was received. Bradley Big Local will continue to work with the Credit Union and Lancashire Together to explore opportunities for this project.
10. **Business Start-up: Bradley Soup** - a very successful event was held on 29th March at Grassroots attended by approximately seventy people. Three applicants pitched on the night. Safe Space Young people were the winners and received a cheque for £500. Warburton's who sponsored the event were so impressed by the Pendle Vale College Mums 2 Mums Cycle project that they awarded them £250. Bodies in Motion's gardening project was subsequently funded £500 from Bradley Big Local's Community Grants.

A second Bradley Soup is planned for 11th October, where the emphasis will be on encouraging the local business community and budding entrepreneurs to submit applications. The project lead is working closely with the Prince's Trust Business Connector, Carolyn Booth, and the Council's Economic Regeneration Team. The project lead has also been invited to the Vision Board's Chairman's briefing to talk about her project, with a view to attending the Vision Board in October.
11. **ESOL** – there is a high demand within the community for ESOL classes, but numbers need to be confirmed. The Partnership is to consider the possibility of commissioning a local provider to deliver bespoke classes designed around the diverse Bradley community.
12. **Community Grants Scheme** – a third round of the Community Grants Scheme was held in April, which resulted in three applications: Bodies in Motion Gardening project; Bradley Nursery School garden project and Together Lancashire to deliver a Fun, Friends and Food project during the school summer holidays. All three applications were successful and awarded £500 each.

The Partnership has agreed to have a rolling programme of community grants which will be promoted on the Partnership's website, via social media and through Programme Support.

Future applications will be discussed at monthly Partnership meetings with successful bids continuing to meet the needs of the current and refreshed action plans.

13. **Community Land Trust (CLT)** – the CLT is now registered with the financial Conduct Authority as a Co-operative and Community Benefit Society. Residents of Bradley will be encouraged to become members within the next 6 – 8 months. Membership cost will be £1.00. The CLT will have an asset lock that will hold assets for the benefit of Bradley communities.
14. A Board of Trustees, made up of residents and stakeholders, has been set up. The Board has commissioned Liberata to undertake a feasibility study for two sites. The CLT and the Partnership will be consulted as part of the feasibility report which should be completed by mid-September and will need to be agreed by the Council's Executive.
15. A tender to commission a Development Officer was advertised in June. The post is a twelve month contract and the postholder will work three days per week and will be based at Grassroots. The successful applicant will take up the role from September.
16. **Hodge House Play Area** – installation of the new play equipment commenced early June. The existing play equipment has been retained and re-painted. The Partnership was successful in its submission of an application to the Lancashire Environmental Fund towards the play area and outdoor fitness equipment; an award of £18,318. The installation of the outdoor fitness equipment will be completed by the end of August. An official opening of this flagship development is planned for September.
17. Opportunities to network and share best practice with other Big Locals continues with attendance at this year's Big Local spring events in Liverpool and Birmingham. A local Northwest region event in Bradley is being considered by the Partnership.
18. New members on the Partnership have also taken the opportunity to attend training courses to equip them in their roles.
18. Following an invitation to the Local Trust, the Partnership was visited in April by the Local Trust CEO, Matt Leach, and Chairman, Kevin Sugrue. The visit provided the Partnership with the opportunity to talk about the action plan and project delivery. The CEO and Chairman were very impressed with what they heard, particularly with the Bradley Soup

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: The Partnership shares with the Council its priorities for economic growth and housing regeneration.

Financial: As the Locally Trusted Organisation (LTO) the Council holds the funding received from the Big Local Trust and is accountable for all expenditure which must accord with the agreed action plan with any variations approved in advance by the Big Local Trust. As the LTO, the Council receives an income based on 5% of the partnership funding each year towards partnership running costs and grant administration. The project to improve the play area at Hodge House is included in the Council's capital programme for this year funded primarily by grant from the Bradley Big Local and the Lancashire Environmental Fund.

Legal: Bradley Big Local CLT and BASES will be separate legal entities.

Risk Management: This will be addressed as part of the project delivery process

Health and Safety: All activities to date have been subject to risk assessment by the Community Protection and Localities Team or a member of the Partnership.

Sustainability: This is an inherent part of the Big Local process and in the action planning to date.

Community Safety: This has been identified as a key element through the consultation.

Equality and Diversity: This will be addressed through the Partnership.