

	<h1>Community Leadership and Libraries Committee</h1> <h2>26 January 2022</h2>
Title	Barnet Community Participation Strategy Delivery plan update: January 2022
Report of	Councillor Thompstone, Chairman of Community Leadership and Libraries Committee
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix 1. Barnet Community Participation Strategy delivery plan update January 2022
Officer Contact Details	William Cooper, Deputy Head of Strategy and Engagement. william.cooper@barnet.gov.uk 020 8359 2236

<h1>Summary</h1>
<p>The fourth update to the Community Participation Strategy was approved by this committee in June 2021. It sets out new proposals for involving residents and community groups in the work of the council while developing meaningful, ongoing dialogue with communities.</p> <p>The strategy is structured into four themed chapters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling place-based working • A stronger partnership with the voluntary community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector

- Enabling resident participation
- Unlocking resources for the community

As with previous updates, the Community Participation Strategy has a two-year lifespan and is accompanied by a delivery plan that sets out how its proposals will be met. While previously this plan was brought to committee annually, the delivery plan for the 2021 strategy will be updated six-monthly. This is in recognition of the scale and scope of the work proposed in the strategy – especially in its first year. This frequency of reporting is also in the spirit of the Community Participation Strategy, in that it fosters greater member involvement in the work and enables more public awareness.

A lot has already been achieved in the six months since the strategy was published. Much of this has been groundwork to create the capacity and mechanisms that are required to deliver it. Highlights include the development of a new enhanced Barnet Together Alliance and the continued success of the Food Hub in coordinating food bank support and waste reduction.

More is planned for the coming months, including a new Citizen's Panel and the launch of the Barnet Community Fund – administered by Barnet Together. Greater capacity in the Strategy and Engagement team will also be created to enable increased engagement with residents.

Officers Recommendations

1. That members note the update and the progress made so far in delivering the Community Participation Strategy
2. That members note the planned activities to be completed in the forthcoming months.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Previous updates to the Community Participation Strategy have usually been accompanied by two-year delivery plans. While it is still the intention to fully update the strategy in two years' time, the scale and scope of its content are such that shorter term planning and reporting to committee better fits the pace of delivery. Therefore, an update like this will be brought to Community Leadership and Libraries Committee at six-monthly intervals.
- 1.2 The 2021 strategy calls for some significant changes in approach in order to support the delivery of the Barnet Plan's commitments for place-based working and partnership. Therefore, a certain amount of groundwork is

required to establish mechanisms for these new ways of working, and to build capacity where it is needed.

- 1.3 A key element of the strategy is the proposal to develop the council's relationship with the voluntary community faith and social enterprise sector (VCFSE) by developing a new enhanced infrastructure alliance with the Barnet Together partnership. This has required increased investment from the council, which was approved at Policy and Resources Committee in July 2021. This funding commitment has enabled the partnership to design a new scope for their service and begin recruiting to new posts. The new Barnet Together Alliance will officially launch and mobilise in the first quarter of 2022.
- 1.4 Increased capacity with the council's Strategy and Engagement team is also required to deliver the Community Participation Strategy. Two new roles in the Consultation and Engagement team have been created to support this. The first of these will come into post in late February.
- 1.5 Some of the work proposed in the Community Participation Strategy is already underway. This includes existing place-based projects such as those taking place on the Grahame Park Estate and in town centres.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is vital to the success of the Community Participation Strategy that members are kept informed of the progress of its delivery and have the opportunity to comment.
- 2.2 Much of the content of the strategy is concerned with community engagement and the relationship between the local authority and residents. Members play an important role in this and are key stakeholders in the work.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The alternative to this update would be to return to annual reporting. Officers feel that this would not give members sufficient oversight of all the various work being delivered.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The next six monthly update will be brought to CLLC in the summer of 2022 (committee dates to be confirmed).

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

- 5.1 **Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 A more comprehensive and detailed delivery plan is in development. This will be used internally to programme-manage the delivery of the Community Participation Strategy. Some of the indicators and KPIs in this plan will be used to support Barnet Plan outcomes reporting as well as corporate performance measurement where appropriate.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)]

- 5.2.1 As well as the budget allocation of £540,000 to Barnet Together, the Community Participation Strategy also includes proposals to make better use of all funding and resources that can be made available for community benefit. This includes grant funding, Community Infrastructure Levy and Social Value.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The Community Participation Strategy sets out how the council can maximise the potential for social value contributions obtained from suppliers as a consequence of the council's new Social Value Policy, approved by Policy and Resources Committee in December 2021. It is the role of this strategy and its delivery plan to inform the application of social value contributions as listed in the Social Value TOMs (themes, outcomes and measures) document when this is launched in the spring of 2022.
- 5.3.2 In its broadest sense, social value runs through everything in this strategy. It proposes ways of working that unlock the assets in our communities, and harness these to create stronger, more cohesive communities whose needs are better served.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 The council's Constitution, Article 7.5 Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships, sets out the functions of Community Leadership and Libraries which include:
Responsibility for libraries, culture, civic events, the mayoralty, voluntary, community and faith sector strategy and engagement, community safety, environmental crime (excluding littering, fly-tipping, fly-posting and graffiti), registration and nationality service, food security and Covid-19 enforcement.
- 5.4.1 The terms of reference for the committee include receipt of reports on relevant performance information and risk on the services under the remit of the Committee, and maintenance of good community relations with Barnet's diverse communities ensuring all have the opportunity to participate fully in the borough's affairs. There are no other legal or constitutional implications to this report.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 Increasing community participation can carry some risks. These will be analysed and identified for every piece of work, with mitigation plans put in place where necessary.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010, the Council is under an obligation to have due regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advancing equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share it; and fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant 'protected characteristic' and persons who do not share it. The 'protected characteristics' are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The Council also has regard to the additional protected characteristic of marriage and civil partnership even though this does not apply to certain parts of the public-sector equality duty.
- 5.6.2 The Community Participation Strategy actively advances equalities and diversity by helping ensure the council reaches and hears from a diverse cross-section of residents. Increasing resident engagement helps to ensure our services meets the needs of our communities.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

- 5.7.1 The council expects partner organisations in the VCFSE and private sectors to agree with our corporate parenting pledge and support our endeavours to raise outcomes for looked after children and care leavers.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.8.1 Consultation and engagement are fundamental to the Community Participation Strategy. It sets out how the council can have a closer and more productive dialogue with residents.
- 5.8.2 A deliverable of the strategy will be an updated new Consultation and Engagement Strategy that will set out in detail the work required to advance this. Two new posts have been created in the Consultation and Engagement team to create the necessary capacity.

5.9 Insight

- 5.9.1 Insight is also a key element of the Community Participation Strategy, and a comprehensive understanding of the assets in our communities is

fundamental to its delivery. Collating and mapping this data will be an output of the strategy that will benefit the wider council as well as the community.

5.10 Environmental Impact

- 5.10.1 There are no direct environmental implications from noting the recommendations. Implementing the recommendations in the report will lead to a positive impact on the Council's carbon and ecology impact, or at least it is neutral.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 [The Community Participation Strategy 2021](#) was approved at Community Leadership and Libraries Committee on 9 June 2021.
- 6.2 [The Social Value Policy 2021-2025](#) was approved at Policy and Resources Committee on 9 December 2021.

Barnet Community Participation Strategy

Delivery Plan update. January 2022

Introduction

The fourth update to the Barnet Community Participation Strategy was approved by Community Leadership and Libraries committee in June 2021. It sets out a new vision for greater engagement with our residents and community groups in order to fulfil the commitments in the Barnet Plan to work in a more collaborative and place-based way.

It is an ambitious strategy that covers a broad range of services and activities. In order to keep members apprised of the progress in implementing it, a delivery plan will be presented to committee every six months, with a full update to the strategy in 2024.

The delivery plan is structured into the four themes of the Community Participation Strategy:

- [Enabling place-based working](#)
- [A stronger partnership with the voluntary community, faith and social enterprise \(VCFSE\) sector](#)
- [Enabling resident participation](#)
- [Unlocking resources for the community](#)

Enabling place-based working

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
A comprehensive database of VCFSE sector organisations in the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the closure of the Barnet Community Directory (BCD) in 2019, no single database of all VCFSE groups in the borough has been maintained • A comprehensive understanding of the sector in each locality is essential to effective place-based working. • This needs to be a shared resource between council and VCFSE partners, as well as providing a publicly accessible directory format. 	Strategy and Engagement (SE) Team Barnet Together	31 March 2022	<p>When it was decommissioned, the BCD contained just over 300 records. These have now been cleansed and de-duplicated but we know the database is incomplete and likely to be out of date.</p> <p>The data has now been passed to Barnet Together partner organisations so that they can cross reference with their own records and fill any gaps.</p> <p>It will then be loaded onto the Local Insight tool which displays information on maps. This will allow users to search for groups and community assets in localities and enable other local data to be overlayed and analysed together.</p>

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Develop a process framework for place-based working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Barnet Plan makes a commitment to working in a 'place-based' way wherever possible. The Community Participation Strategy goes further in describing how community insight, assets and involvement can help achieve this. The council's Insight and Intelligence (I&I) Hub are a central resource that enables the use of data insight in projects. Place-based projects are often scoped by analysing data about a place and combining resident insight and community asset mapping. The Local Insight tool managed by I&I Hub, enables a wide variety of demographic indicators to be analysed by ward. 	SE Team I&I Hub	In progress, with deadline of June 2022	<p>The SE and I&I teams have met in a series of workshops to begin formulating a process framework for place-based working.</p> <p>There are a number of ways a place-based project can arise. Often, they are identified by a level of specific needs evidenced through indicators such as deprivation. They can also be linked to regeneration or renewal. The aim of this work - and the involvement of the SE Team and Barnet Together - will be to ensure that place-based projects involve the community.</p> <p>The framework will be piloted on forthcoming projects. One example will be on the Grahame Park estate in Colindale where a Public Health needs assessment has been carried out. This provides a localised set of evidence of the various health and wellbeing challenges facing residents. This will inform the design of multiagency interventions to address these.</p> <p>Ultimately, the agreed framework will form part of the strategy development guidance produced by the SE Team</p>

A stronger partnership with the voluntary community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
A new alliance with Barnet Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An enhanced infrastructure partnership will increase the reach and impact that the existing Barnet Together partnership can bring to the sector. It will enable more effective strategic representation for the sector, with the council serving as a fourth partner in the alliance. Direct support to organisations and community groups will be increased. This includes capacity building, training, fundraising and business development advice. Increased use of shared data across the sector and the council will provide greater insight about community needs and the work of VCFSE organisations 	LBB Barnet Together	Launching January 2022	<p>Following the approval of the Community Participation Strategy in June, Policy and Resources Committee approved a budget proposal of £400,000 at its 20 July meeting. Combined with the pre-existing budget, this makes a total of £540,000 available to Barnet Together each year.</p> <p>Following this announcement, the partner organisations worked on developing a structure and service offer to fit the budget.</p> <p>Much of this has been put towards new capacity in the partner organisations. This is a combination of new roles and additional hours being added to existing posts. In total this equates to an additional 5.3 full time equivalent posts.</p> <p>Over the last few months, a detailed Memorandum of Understanding has been developed, defining the functions and governance of the new alliance. These are based on five objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective and inclusive support for the sector Strong sector voice and representation Better collaboration Sustainable resourcing and support Effective and inclusive community engagement <p>The Barnet Together Alliance will officially launch in early 2022, A live launch event is planned and will take place once Covid restrictions permit it.</p>

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
New Barnet Together website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dedicated web resource for the alliance that would provide VCFSE groups with online access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building resources • Local information and links to central resources, such as safeguarding contacts and referral pathways • Funding opportunities (eg Barnet Community Fund) • Council consultations • Food bank information • Links to Local Insight Tool 	LBB Barnet Together	Scoped and designed throughout 2022 with a goal to launch in Autumn/Winter	<p>A few practical questions have to be addressed initially: how the site will be resourced and where it will be hosted.</p> <p>Once this is confirmed there will be a process of development work undertaken. The deadline here is generous and some content could well go live earlier.</p>

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Furthering use of data tools among Barnet Together members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Barnet Foundation already use a VCFSE performance reporting tool called Upshot. This captures data on the types of people accessing services provided by community organisations. It also captures monitoring and evaluation data about their service delivery. All of this can be mapped across the borough. In combination with the Local Insight tool this data would provide very useful insight if rolled out across the whole sector (currently just young people's groups) 	Barnet Together	<p>Decision on licence purchase by February 2022. Potential roll-out over financial year 2022-23</p> <p>BT Data Officer recruited by March 2022</p>	<p>The support available through Barnet Together is universally offered to any VCFSE organisation in the borough. However, there are benefits from it functioning as a membership scheme. One of these being the sharing of data. Understanding more about the work being delivered across the sector will enable Barnet Together and the council to better understand how to support it.</p> <p>Barnet Council is considering the benefits of funding an alliance-wide licence for Upshot. Access could then be made available to any organisation joining Barnet Together. This would operate under a single data sharing agreement with the local authority, allowing the data to be used in council decision making.</p> <p>Among the new roles being recruited to in the Barnet Together alliance is a Data Officer to oversee this work.</p>

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Barnet Community Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, Barnet Together has been running the Community Response Fund. Funded through donations it has so far provided £122,769 in 187 grants to VCFSE organisations over 12 funding waves. • During the pandemic the Barnet Community Response Fund granted small amounts of funding to meet urgent needs presented by the pandemic. While the impacts of the pandemic are still being felt across the sector, there is less need for emergency funding. There is therefore space for a more general grant pot for VCFSE administered by Barnet Together. New guidelines and criteria are being developed and will be by approved by the panel. 	Barnet Together	Launching January 2022	<p>The proposed criteria for the Community Fund are set out below.</p> <p>Main Grant Grants of up to £5,0000 to fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting emerging need • Re-starting a successful initiative that was halted due to Covid • Upscaling of an existing project with proven track record to aid recovery • Developing emotional wellbeing and resilience • Enhancing social inclusion • New projects that support residents' recovery from the impacts of the pandemic - eg a food cooperative <p>Small Grant</p> <p>It is proposed that small grants of up to £500 will be made available smaller projects that meet emergency need and improve community resilience.</p>

<p>Barnet Food Hub</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Food Hub is an innovative partner project delivered by Barnet Together. It tackles food insecurity by ensuring a stable source of supplies to a network of 18 food banks as well as 13 community groups around the borough that provide cooked meals. • The Hub also contributes significantly to waste reduction - contributing a saving of 3,161 tonnes of CO2 to date. • Operational since November 2020 from the site of the former East Barnet library, it is currently funded by the council until end of Sept 2022 • It operates with a minimum of paid staff and utilises volunteers to keep costs to a minimum. 	<p>Barnet Together</p>	<p>Decision on future Hub funding by April 2022</p>	<p>The concept of the Hub grew out of the work done during the first lockdown of 2020 when the Covid Community Response programme set up a distribution centre, to deliver food parcels to shielding residents. Known as the Emergency Supplies Hub, it also delivered to food banks. And as shielding restrictions lifted this became its main function. The benefits of this service to both food security and foodbank sustainability were soon apparent. The council decided to hand over the running of the service to Barnet Together.</p> <p>Since launching in November 2020 the Food Hub has distributed 671 tonnes of food. This is equivalent to 1,597,087 meals, or approximately £1,562,086 in value.</p> <p>The Hub also supports sustainability and waste reduction. It reduces emissions by cutting delivery journeys and all the food it distributes is surplus that would otherwise end up in landfill. Any food it can't distribute is disposed of through an anaerobic digester facility in a neighbouring borough or sent to allotments for composting.</p> <p>As part of the borough's Food Security Working Group led by Public Health, Barnet Together/the Hub contributes valuable take-up data from the food banks it serves. This enables the group to map food insecurity and the types of foodbank users around the borough.</p> <p>Increasingly the Hub intends to work towards reducing demand for foodbanks through education and advice.</p> <p>In 2021 the Hub has also supported the council's BACE holiday schemes with the supply of fresh fruit and meal kits.</p>
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Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Implementing the Barnet Faith Covenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnet was the first London Brough to adopt the All Parliamentary Party Covenant for Engagement between Faith Communities and Local Authorities in 2015. • The Community Participation Strategy recognised that awareness of the covenant had waned in recent years and committed the council to refreshing it. • The document is co-signed with Barnet Multi Faith Forum and includes pledges from both. The council's commitments include designing strategies to involve more faith groups in consultation and to ensure members of all religions and cultures are included equally. 	SE Team BMFF VCFSE	<p>Covenant re-signed November 2021</p> <p>Implementation plan to be developed Jan-March 2022</p>	<p>A re-signing ceremony was held at Hendon Town Hall on 15 November 2021, the first day of Interfaith Week. In the new year, the SE Team will work with BMFF to agree a set of actions to ensure the pledges in the covenant are delivered on. This will also help to ensure that there is more coordinated and strategic support for the faith sector from the council and Barnet Together.</p>

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Marking festivals and cultural awareness days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An agreed programme of mark notable dates will be marked by the council throughout the year. • The emphasis will be on religious festivals and other key faith dates 	SE Team External Comms	Programme agreed January 2022	<p>Consultation has already taken place with BMFF in order to identify the most significant dates in the faith calendar.</p> <p>Many councils also mark other key cultural events such as International Women's Day. The draft programme will include some of these too.</p> <p>The programme will be developed in line with External Communications' plans for how the council marks notable dates through its own social media posts and by amplifying those of partner organisations.</p>

Enabling resident participation

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Update the Consultation and Engagement Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy (CES) was last published in 2014. While the Community Participation Strategy covers a lot of the same content, the CES is more focused and contains a greater level of operation detail. An update is required to bring it in line with the Community Participation Strategy and to set out new actions such as some of those below. 	SE Team	Underway. Draft CE Strategy will be discussed at P&R Committee in February 2021	<p>As with the recently updated Equalities Diversity and Inclusion Policy, such a substantial period of time had elapsed since the last update that the process of revising the CES began with a period of desk research. The team looked at similar strategies in other local authorities to gain awareness of any new thinking and methods we could learn from.</p> <p>The strategy is now being drafted and will be presented to P&R Committee in February seeking approval to consult.</p>
Increase capacity in the Consultation and Engagement team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation and Engagement is a sub team within the council's Strategy and Engagement team. It has corporate responsibility for consultation and any engagement activity that gathers resident insight. The aims of the Community Participation Strategy are dependent on engaging residents meaningfully and effectively. Greater capacity in the team will enable more of this work to be delivered and coordinated. 	SE Team	<p>Engagement Officer appointed December 2021 and starting March 2022</p> <p>Research Data Officer recruitment begins February 2022</p>	<p>Two new posts were designed to complement the existing team. The first of these is a Community Engagement Officer. This post will help to deliver in-person engagement where possible and work with seldom heard communities to ensure they have equal opportunities to voice their views. This officer will also work with engagement partners in the council and Barnet Together Alliance to ensure engagement activities are joined up and follow best practice.</p> <p>The second role is a research data analyst. This post will help to process the increased volume of resident insight that is generated, and to report and visualise this data.</p>

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Citizens Panel and Resident Perception Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A priority of the Community Participation Strategy is ensuring resident insight is robust and representative. • Open surveys attract self-selecting respondents and this can bias the results towards certain viewpoints that are not necessarily reflective of the whole community. • The strategy recommends the council conduct regular waves of the Residents Perception Survey (RPS) and reinstates the Citizens Panel This is a statistically representative database of residents that can be used to recruit consultation and engagement audiences. 	SE Team	<p>Autumn 2021 RPS reporting in January 2022</p> <p>Citizens Panel in place by March 2022</p>	<p>As proposed in the Community Participation Strategy, the RPS has now been reinstated on a biannual basis. It will be conducted every two years with an enlarged sample of 2000 residents. This will allow for a certain amount of ward level analysis and will give much richer insight into resident opinion across the borough.</p> <p>Developing and maintaining the Citizens Panel was previously undertaken by a commissioned third party research company. The intention now is that this will be the responsibility of the Research Data Officer when appointed.</p>
Increasing engagement with Resident Forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The councils three constituency Residents Forums are often poorly attended and the proposals and questions from residents tend to be narrow in their range of topics. • There is significant potential to use these forums to involve more of the public in the business of local government. 	SE Team Governance	<p>Commencing Jan-March 2022</p> <p>Implemented mid-late 2022</p>	<p>Conversations have already taken place between Governance and SE Team about the Residents Forums and how they could be improved.</p> <p>This will be a responsibility of the new Community Engagement Officer when that person comes into post.</p> <p>The changes to electoral ward boundaries and forthcoming local elections will probably mean that any changes to Resident Forums will not be implemented until the summer of 2022 at the earliest.</p>

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Volunteering Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key part of Barnet Together since its inception in 2018 has been the provision of the Volunteering Barnet service. • The Covid-19 pandemic has generated a groundswell of resident volunteers with numbers registered to volunteer currently standing at around 6000. • A strategy is required to ensure we build on this, and ensure we maximise the benefits of volunteering – both for volunteers and the organisations that use them. 	Volunteering Barnet SE Team	<p>Work commences January 2022</p> <p>Strategy launched in Volunteers' Week, June 2022</p>	<p>The strategy will be developed in partnership with Volunteering Barnet and will be an output of the Barnet Together alliance.</p> <p>The process of developing the strategy will commence with a period of insight gathering over the first three months of 2022. This will involve surveys of resident volunteers, council staff (both those who have volunteered and those who have not) and VCFSE organisations.</p> <p>This insight will inform the direction of the strategy and indicate where it should focus. The strategy will likely address the ongoing objectives of raising volunteer numbers and improving volunteer experience and accreditation. It will also look at corporate volunteering by council staff and other local organisations and ensuring that Volunteering Barnet is the recognised 'one-stop' resource for volunteering in the borough.</p>

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Health Champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnet Council Public Health team commissioned the Covid 19 Health Champions programme in September 2020 to support the Covid response in Barnet and to address health inequalities. • Around 200 residents are signed up to be Health Champions and work to share vital public health messages in their communities and social networks • The programme is delivered by Volunteering Barnet under contract from the council. 	Public Health Volunteering Barnet	Ongoing	In summer 2021 the Health Champions programme was reviewed. In consultation with the Champions themselves it was decided to broaden the focus of their work from Covid response to 'Covid resilience'.

Unlocking resources for the community

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Social Investment Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council provides funding to the VCFSE sector in a number of different ways, and the overall investment has risen significantly in the last two years. Some of this is direct funding through grants and commissioning, but it can also be through processes that redirect resource, such as social value and CIL. An objective of the Community Innovations and Funding Manager post is to maintain oversight of all of the ways the council the sector 	SE Team	Social Investment Strategy drafted by Summer 2022	<p>Much has changed in the way the council funds the VCFSE in the last two years. These include the establishment of the Community Innovation Fund, Barnet Community Fund (formally Barnet Community Response Fund) the increased investment into Barnet Together and the various new initiatives introduced in response to the Covid pandemic.</p> <p>It is a complex picture that needs to be comprehensively mapped. This will enable the council to make the best use of the resources available and direct VCFSE organisations to the most appropriate source of support.</p> <p>The Community Innovations and Funding Manager will undertake a mapping exercise and use the insight to produce a Social Investment Strategy. This will set out how we use the resources available to us to invest in our communities, enable projects that further social outcomes and ensure the health and sustainability of our VCFSE sector. This work will be supported by Barnet Together.</p>

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Community Innovation Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barnet Council and Barnet Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), supported by Barnet Together, launched the Community Innovation Fund (CIF) in February 2021. It is intended to support projects and initiatives in the community that meet health and wellbeing outcomes defined by the ICP. One funding round had already taken place when the Community Participation Strategy was published. This saw seven projects funded with a total award value of £126,460 	SE Team	<p>Round 2 awards in January 2022</p> <p>Round 3 priorities agreed by March 2021 in time for pre-election promotion.</p> <p>Round 3 launched in May/June 2021</p>	<p>There was considerable learning from the first round of the CIF, which the Community Innovations and Funding Manager was able to implement in planning for Round 2. This meant that the application process was easier and generally ran more smoothly. The fund had also become more well known by the time the second round launched in October 2021. Consequently, the response to this round was much bigger than the first.</p> <p>A total of 92 applications were received, with a combined value of £1,904,000. Of these, 32 were successful, with a combined total award of £466,780.08.</p> <p>A good mix of organisations and projects were funded, with many proposals emphasising mental health as a priority outcome.</p> <p>While these new projects being to mobilise, evaluation of the initial round of funding will be taking place this year. A third round of the CIF will be launched after the local elections in May. This will be publicised - along with a new set of ICP funding priorities - before the pre-election period commence.</p>

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Supporting the development of community centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Centres are an important mechanism for enabling community participation. They can host services and activities provided by VCFSE sector groups as well as social space for residents to come together Barnet has many community centres, but some of these need support. In some cases, this is capital investment to refurbish the infrastructure of the building. Often though, it is about ensuring the best use is being made of the resource – a service offer that meets local need provided through competent and robust management. 	SE Team VCFSE	Underway and ongoing	<p>The Community Partnerships Officer in the SE Team leads on supporting the use of community assets ('spaces and places') by the VCFSE sector. She works closely with the Estates team to liaise with community groups that use council owned spaces. Often this about resolving issues and ensuring the best use is being made of the asset calling on Barnet Together as needed.</p> <p>So far this year five council-owned community centres have been supported in a variety of ways, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a new organisation and trustee board to take over the running of an underused centre Supporting the installation of broadband and digital inclusion support through the council's Community Fibre roll-out Securing corporate volunteers from a commercial company to help with refurbishment

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
CBAT review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Benefit Asset Tool (CBAT) was launched in 2016 and is used to determine rent subsidies for VCFSE organisations occupying council owned buildings. • The social value benefits provided by the occupying organisation are given a financial value using the tool. This amount is then taken off the rent they are charged. • Most community organisations operating from council owned premises are renting on terms negotiated using CBAT. 	Estates SE Team	Paper proposing CBAT review to be submitted to P&R Committee 9 February 2022	<p>The CBAT tool is an innovative social value mechanism and has enabled many local VCFSE groups to afford premises where they can best support residents.</p> <p>Many of the leases secured through CBAT are due for a five year rent review. This provides a good opportunity to review the CBAT tool overall and ensure that it is in line with corporate social value process and outcomes.</p> <p>The SE Team and Barnet Together will support Estates with this work.</p>

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
CIL bids to Area Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In May 2021 P&R Committee approved changes to the use of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). An aim of the review was to encourage more community-led bidding to this source of capital funding. A new post in the Growth team was created to manage the bidding process, while the SE Team works with community groups to help identify bids. 	Growth SE Team	Ongoing	<p>As part of her work to support the spatial and environmental needs of VCFSE sector organisations, the Community Partnerships Officer in SE Team has supported four community CIL applications in the October round of Area Committees. Three of these were successful, with a combined value of nearly £45,000.</p> <p>The SE Team will continue to promote the use of CIL as part of the range of social investment resource available to the VCFSE. This will be promoted to the VCFSE by Barnet Together and the SE team.</p>
Social Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council's Social Value Policy was approved by P&R Committee on 9 December 2021. It raises the minimum threshold for social value in the quality criteria of supplier contracts to 20%. A toolkit will advise suppliers of the outcomes and beneficiaries they can support with their social value contributions 	SE Team Finance	Toolkit finalised and implemented by April 2022	<p>As the Social Value Policy was developed, a task group was assembled to work on the themes, measures and outcomes (TOMs) that the newly increased social value contributions can support. This is a multi-agency group with services areas around the council represented. It is led by The Community Innovations and Funding Manager.</p> <p>Positioning social value in the SE Team and working closely with our partners in the Barnet Together alliance ensures that the TOMs are directly informed by the needs and capacity in our VCFSE and are considered as part of the wider framework of community resourcing. The contractual elements of social value are managed by the Procurement team in Finance, however.</p>

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Crowdfund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CrowdFund Barnet is the council's civic crowdfunding platform. The online platform is provided and administered by an organisation called Spacehive. • Crowdfunding can be an effective tool to facilitate hyper-local community-led projects. • Proposals that meet certain criteria can receive a boost pledge of up to £5,000 from the council. 	SE Team	Supplier contract procurement in Summer 2022	<p>Since the Community Participation Strategy was published there have been two rounds of crowdfunding and the council has supported eight projects with pledges with a total investment of £16,601.</p> <p>Priorities for 2022 are reprocurring a provider for the Crowdfund portal and ensuring a more sustainable method of funding both the contract fees and pledge pot. Currently these are bid for from two separate sources on an annual basis. This year-to-year funding makes it difficult to develop the service beyond its current scale.</p>
Adopt a Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a Place agreements between the council and community groups allow the groups to maintain and tend areas of open space in the borough. • Friends of Open Spaces are often the groups that choose to adopt. These are usually informally constituted community groups 	Parks and Open Spaces SE Team	Ongoing	<p>The Community Partnerships Officer works with colleagues in Parks and Open Spaces to encourage participation in Barnet's many green assets. Adopt a Place agreements are a valuable tool for regenerating underused or derelict spaces.</p> <p>Four Adopt a Place requests have been raised since the summer, with one already approved and the others pending at the time of writing.</p>

Item	Description	Responsible	Timings	Progress notes
Environmental participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barnet is a green and leafy borough, and activities to maintain and improve our open spaces are consistently popular with residents. This kind of volunteering can have excellent health and wellbeing outcomes, as well as the obvious environmental benefits. 	Estates SE Team	Ongoing	<p>Litter picking has been a popular activity among residents since pre-pandemic.</p> <p>Lockdowns led to increased use of parks which in turn brought an increase in litter. To tackle this, the council launched a campaign of community cleansing known as Pleasant Parks which took place over the summer of 2021. Free equipment was provided, benefitting our many existing litter-picking groups and inspiring new ones to form. Over the course of the programme 28 groups comprising 420 resident volunteers cleared litter from parks. 755 school children from 23 schools also got involved as did 126 members of council staff.</p> <p>Other types of environmental participation are also increasingly popular in Barnet. These include community growing schemes, where vegetables and fruit are cultivated to support food banks.</p> <p>In November 2021 the 500 trees that will form the borough's new Memorial Woodland were planted by resident volunteers, including school children and army cadets.</p> <p>Barnet Together have formed an environmental network within the VCFSE to encourage groups to work together, share learning and opportunities.</p>