

Agenda item 3

For information and discussion: Resilience Work Plan 2016/17

Author: Anna Francis, Resilience Officer

Summary

The post of resilience officer was established to support the community, community groups and businesses in the town to be more resilient in the face of climate change challenges, changes to public transport provision and the need to reduce waste.

This report brings Cllrs up to date on progress in the first half of this financial year and proposes a discussion on future priorities.

Introduction

Anna Francis, Frome Town Council's Resilience Officer, will be presenting her work plan, outlining key impacts and projects. This will also include an outline of the work plan for 2016/17, some of which will be managed by her maternity cover Cara Naden. The table below outlines the key activities from the council's strategic plan and summarises activities, progress to date and future plans.

What	How		
		Progress	Future
Invite businesses and other enterprises to play a role in the wider community & support each other. Implement a 'Good Business' strategy leading to the development of a 'Good Business Award'	Business engagement and audit programme	9 Good Business visits conducted. Increasing link with local charities.	Good Business visits to continue

Improved transport services	Work with partners to secure improvements in public transport services, look for real alternatives to public transport, promote Car Club and workable schemes for lift and car share	£16,000 secured for car club, launched in Feb 2015. It now has over 90 members and has displaced 30 privately owned vehicles. £15,000 secured from First Great Western to increase access to rail use and provide discounts for low income households. £10,000 being secured to support Frome Community Cars (volunteer driver scheme). Facilitated Frome and Village Bus User Group - successfully lobbied for continued support for key services, promoted Catch the Bus Week and supported trial of village bus service to Frome via Mendip Community Transport	Launch 'Fair Travel' to provide discounted rail tickets, free car club membership and increased signage working with Fair Frome. Launch volunteer driver scheme in November.
Contribute to thematic twinning conferences.	Organise Green Energy conference in Frome.	Conference delivered successfully and surpassed attendance targets. Dialogue continues between twin towns sharing experience of energy refurbishment and renewable energy.	These discussions fed into the Clean and Healthy Future report and target and will be a key focus for 2016/17.
Further develop the concept of One Planet Frome (to secure a town-wide transition to a low carbon economy and a resilient town).	Focus on existing 'green' businesses to increase the use of renewable energy and joined up waste management.	Ran business breakfast focussing on waste and recycling. This led to initial work around setting up a waste consortium for local businesses. Promoted and supported a range of green businesses.	Business waste consortium to be formally established.

	New electric charge point for additional car Club vehicle.	New charge point being added at Town Hall (Frome will then have three public charging points)	Four charge points to be allocated to local businesses.
	Further promote development and use of Share Shop	Secured £18,000 to support the project and run weekly repair sessions. Over 12 tonnes of waste diverted including 5.5 tonnes of Waste Electrical and Electric Equipment (surpassing target). 600 members recruited. Second stage of Power to Change submitted (for £75k). 70 organisations have downloaded SHARE's open source toolkit and the project attracted international media attention.	Develop business plan further including higher value equipment such as electric bikes. Secure more permanent premises. Link with local businesses more.
	Pursue projects that change behaviour e.g. One Planet Sunday and use of Welcome Packs for new residents	One Planet Sunday and Open Homes attended by over 600 people in 2015. Switch to a Renewable Future and Clean and Healthy event attended by over 400 people including ex-President of Maldives. New resident welcome packs launched, promoted through estate agents and available at the library and on-line.	Support and promote Cobble Wobble (tbc). Promote welcome packs more.
	Continue with work to encourage reduction in use of energy in schools	Energy audits and student activities conducted at Selwood, St Johns and Frome College. Some of this continues.	Work in partnership with Frome's Missing Link to support school active travel challenge, 22nd - 27th May 2017.

	Significantly increase renewable energy production	Frome Renewable Energy Co-op installed 200kw of community owned solar in 2015. Second stage of Power to Change funding application (for £50k) submitted. Short listed for best community energy project in the South West. Provided info and support for local residents and organisations looking to install renewables.	Exploring a range of local solar opportunities and a potential hydro project.
	Through fundraising invest in biothermic digester for green and dog waste	Food waste audits conducted with local businesses. UK's first community fridge launched May 2016. Diverts over 2500 items a month and provides a 'life line' for some. More than 40 councils and community groups have shared our toolkit or been in touch to replicate the project.	Will feature on Jimmy and Jamie's Fridge Night Food Feast on Channel 4 in early 2017. Will recruit more volunteers as more businesses come on board.
	Supply a Frome electricity tariff	This has been set up via FRECo and Mongoose Community Energy	UK's first community owned tariff will pilot in Frome in November and launch in spring 2017
Further develop the concept of One Planet Frome - additional activities	Supporting local groups	Supported Frome Scrapstore, Toy Library, Happy Nappy Library and others.	Support and promote Edventure's repair programme in spring 2017

	Fuel poverty programme	Run monthly winter energy advice sessions at Frome Medical Practice. Submitted bid for £100k from the Better Care Fund to work with the Medical Practice and CSE to sign-post people with cold home related health impacts to free measures. Bought thermal imaging camera to pinpoint heat leaks – now available for hire via SHARE.	Launch Better Care Fund programme subject to funding. Lend thermal imaging camera to help people find out where their homes are leaking heat.
	Clean and Healthy Future programme	Launched discussion document and scenario report to set target to cut carbon dioxide emissions to zero by 2046. Unanimously supported by council. Launched by Simon King and David Warburton on 15th October.	Organise event at House of Commons to share our approach with other areas, secure political support and funding.

For discussion

1. Are these the right priorities?
2. Are there other projects we could do or explore?

Further information

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There are also summaries of this stream of work at: www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/cleanfuture , www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/community-cars and <http://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/your-community/renewable-energy/>