

## Agenda item 5

### For information – Green and Healthy Futures Lottery bid

Author: Nikki Brain, Resilience Manager

#### Summary

Over the past 18 months Frome Town Council has partnered with Edventure and Frome Medical Practice to deliver a National Lottery Climate Action funded project focused on creating climate-health win wins in our community. There is now an opportunity to extend and increase funding for a further 3 years, to support Frome Town Council's Resilience objectives.

A consultation paper has been produced by the G&HF project team to share ideas for the next phase and gather feedback on the proposals.

#### Background

In 2020 Edventure, Frome Town Council and Frome Medical Practice were awarded £300,000 as a partnership by the Lottery's Climate Action Fund to deliver a two year "development" project called A Green and Healthy Future for Frome. The project's aims were to explore the links between climate and health and deliver impactful projects to benefit both in the community. The idea of a development project is to test ideas ahead of putting in a bid for a larger amount of funding.

Over the last 18 months, a project team sat across the three organisations has been working to deliver seven different "strands" of the Green and Healthy Futures programme. Frome Town Council's Resilience team has led delivery of three of these: Healthy Homes, Cycle Together, and a project evaluation carried out by a dedicated researcher and externally verified by Plymouth University. Additionally, the Resilience team has worked with the wider project team on development and communications, including the recent climate and health conference held at the Cheese and Grain in July 2022.

#### Healthy Homes and Cycle Together- impact to date

##### Healthy Homes

Healthy Homes has been delivered in partnership with Frome Medical Practice and the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), an energy advice charity. Through monthly energy advice drop-ins, an information campaign with Frome Medical Practice, a series of 5 webinars and promotion through our social media channels, we have quadrupled the amount of cases CSE has received from Frome since the project began.

583 cases have been logged in CSE's system from Frome from 1 April 2021- 28 May 2022. This is over 4x the number of referrals from 2022-2021, before Healthy Homes started. CSE has confirmed that this is not a general trend across Mendip but specifically due to increased activity in Frome.

These cases include general energy efficiency advice, support dealing with

suppliers/metering, access to support schemes such as the Priority Services Register and Warm Homes Discount, referrals to paid-for services, and inquiries that require no further action. 89 cases logged have led to referrals for grant-funded retrofit work including:

- 19 x Cavity Wall Insulation
- 1 x double glazing
- 2 x EWI
- 6 x IWI
- 19 x loft insulation top-ups
- 6 x new loft insulation
- 19 x new heating systems
- 11 x boiler upgrades
- 1 x solar PV

These measures have led to a combined financial saving of £84,800 with an average saving of £514 per household where measures have been installed. (data collected by CSE). This equates to a carbon saving of approx. 50 tonnes- equivalent to taking 25 diesel cars off the road.

### Cycle Together

Through the Cycle Together scheme participants can benefit from a free e-bike loan for free for 4 weeks along with essential accessories and 6 hours of cycle confidence classes. The aim is to make cycling accessible and support people to shift their short journeys from car to bike.

Between May 2021 and June 2022 64 people have taken part and ages have ranged from 25-75 years old. Collectively the participants have cycled over 2,000 miles. In post-course surveys 95% of Cycle Together participants said they will cycle more in future and 67% said they will cycle instead of using the car for short journeys.

### Evaluation

Frome Town Council employs a dedicated Climate Action Researcher for 2 days a week to evaluate the Green & Healthy Futures programme. The aims are to provide robust evidence of impact, enable iterative improvements to projects and activities, and increase inclusion by identifying barriers.

To ensure the evaluation is robust, we have partnered with research experts at Plymouth University to externally verify the evaluation of the project.

This is an unusual and innovative approach to project evaluation that allows for reflexivity, an in-depth understanding of the project by the evaluator, and high quality qualitative evidence gathering.

### Timeline for bid and consultation on proposal

The G&HF team had a productive meeting with the CAF Grant Officer on Thurs 14 July, who was very positive about our work. The next steps are to produce a 3-page Expression of Interest for the CAF by September. If this is successful, we will be invited to submit a full bid by mid-November for a decision in January.

The consultation document attached to this paper has been produced to gather feedback from stakeholders including members of the community on the future direction of the project to inform the bid. The team is asking for feedback on this document by 9 September.

#### Impact on FTC budget and workload

Currently, the funding for the Green & Healthy Futures project accounts for 70% of the Resilience budget, excluding staff costs. It has allowed us considerable resource to deliver some impactful work.

However, staff are currently delivering the work alongside many other activities in the Resilience work programme including some large projects, and therefore to expand the work any further, more staff time is needed. Therefore, there is a proposal for FTC to employ a dedicated officer for the 3 year period to support the Green & Healthy Futures programme, funded through the grant. The ambition is for this to be someone with retrofit expertise to support a neighbourhood level energy efficiency project, [see Appendix 5.1 which can be viewed on the website here.](#)

The budget proposal also includes support for communications, to reflect the additional work created for the FTC comms team to support the programme. This totals £344,316 over 3 years. [The budget be viewed on the website here as Appendix 5.2](#)