

COMMUNITY PLAN 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT

Cabinet - 15 October 2020

Report of: Chief Officer People & Places

Status: For Consideration

Also considered by:

- People & Places Advisory Committee - 6 October 2020

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: The Annual Report for the first year (2019/20) of the Sevenoaks District Community Plan 2019-22 has been completed and progress against agreed key success measures for each priority within the plan is reported.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Lesley Dyball

Contact Officers: Alan Whiting, Ext.7446

Recommendation to People & Places Advisory Committee: That Members note the contents of the report.

Recommendation to Cabinet: That Members note the Community Plan 2019/20 Annual Report.

Reason for recommendation: The report sets out progress against key success measures for the first year of monitoring (2019/20) for the Sevenoaks District Community Plan 2019-22.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The Community Plan creates a long-term vision (2013-2028) for the Sevenoaks District and sets out the community's priorities for action.
- 2 Council approved the Community Plan and strategic level action plan on 4 April 2018.
- 3 The Sevenoaks District Local Strategic Partnership delivers the Community Plan. This is made up of public sector organisations, together with voluntary and community sector representatives. It is co-ordinated by Sevenoaks District Council.

Community Plan Annual Report for the period 1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020

- 4 The Annual report is attached at Appendix A. A number of case studies submitted by partners are included within Appendix A.
- 5 It sets out some of the key outcomes achieved this year by theme of the Community Plan. Each theme also includes some of the key partnership challenges for the year ahead.
- 6 96% of key performance indicators are currently on target, against a target of 85%. A flavour of the work is given below. The Annual Report sets out further information.

Safe Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2019/20 Community Safety Action Plan was 98% on target. During the year the Sevenoaks Community Safety Unit successfully coordinated partnership enforcement activity on an address in Edenbridge. This resulted in a three month Closure Order due to ongoing anti-social behaviour. • The district remains the second lowest in Kent for overall levels of recorded crime. Part of the success is the continued work of the Community MARAC process. (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) is designed to address medium and high risk victims, offenders and problem locations. • Anti-social behaviour in the District remained the second lowest in Kent with 1602 reports, this is an increase compared to same period last year of 175.
Caring Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sevenoaks District Council continued to support people to live at home independently. The Private Sector Housing team issued nearly £760,000 on disabled facilities grants support to over 80 people. • One You Your Home advisors supported 217 clients to achieve their goals. The vast majority of the goals set are “Be Safe in your environment” (37.5%) which are connected to the use of the Better Care Fund to provide home adaptations to a resident’s home and/or the purchase of equipment to support a residents at home mobility.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sevenoaks had the second lowest level NEETs (young people not in education employment or training) in the county. • Sevenoaks District Council housing prevented 138 people from becoming homeless through prevention work. • The Sevenoaks District Community Grant scheme supported 25 voluntary and community organisations to deliver important services during 2019/20, with a total grant value of £54,800
Green Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers continue to work with natural environment partners including the AONB units (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and the North West Kent Countryside Partnership. During the year projects have included improvements to Edenbridge water meadows, removing invasive species, improving the North Downs Way walking trail and habitat creation for Great Crested Newts. • No Open Space was lost on Allocated Sites. The Council works with partner organisations including the High Weald AONB unit, The North West Kent Countryside Partnership, The Kent Wildlife Trust and neighbouring authorities to provide countryside enhancements across the District. • During 2019/20 there were no applications for new dwellings refused in the Green Belt were overturned at appeal. • During 2019/20, Sevenoaks District Council successfully maintained its weekly refuse and dry recycling collection service.
Healthy Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this year (2019/20), there have been 642 referrals to the One You Kent service. • The Sevenoaks District Council Health team recruited a new Housing and Health Project Officer, as part of the Head of Housing and Health's role as Chair of the Kent Housing Group's (KHG) Housing and Health Sub Group. The aim of this role is to make access to local health and wellbeing services easier for vulnerable residents, particularly those living in social housing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's HERO Advice Service, providing early intervention for housing and financial issues, has been shortlisted for an award for innovation at the Kent Housing Group Excellence Awards.
Dynamic Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Economic Development Strategy 2018 - 2021 was adopted in January 2019. The Strategy provides the framework for the Council's work on Economic Development. The Strategy has 5 key themes, Growth and Investment, Infrastructure, Visitor Economy, Skills and Enterprise. Monitoring of the delivery of the first year of the strategy has shown that 86% of the actions are green. • Based at the Swanley Link in partnership with RBLI (Royal British Legion Industries), West Kent Housing Association offered a weekly support service for those looking to go back to work or get better paid work. • In September 2019, Sevenoaks District Council launched its very first supported internship programme in partnership with Broomhill Bank School. Case studies on the three supported interns are included within Appendix A. • During 2019/20 Sevenoaks District Council developed a web chat facility through the Customer Solutions Team. This assists customers with disability who may not be able to hear people on the phone or who prefer to communicate through the web chat, including people with hidden disabilities. From April 1 2019 - 31 March 2020 Sevenoaks District Council had 686 chats via the website.
Sustainable Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From April 1 2019 - 31 March 2020 Sevenoaks District Council had 686 chats via the website • The following projects where Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money was allocated to projects in the district including Spending Board in the last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-provision of the White Oak Leisure Centre - £900 000. ○ Bradbourne Lakes Landscape Improvements - £242, 400.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Westerham Parking Project - £49, 975 ○ Go 2 - A Demand Responsive Bus Service - £71, 961.98. This project now features on the LGA innovation forum <p>In the last financial year we have paid money to the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Toilets - Edenbridge Town Council - £34, 000 ○ Sevenoaks Day Nursery - £99, 900 ○ Health pod - Otford Medical Practice - £2,500. ○ Swanley Station Improvements - £750 000. ○ New village/Sports Pavilion for Fordcombe Village Hall - £185, 000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 206 affordable homes were delivered during 2019/20.
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Key Implications

Financial

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

There are no legal or human rights issues relating to this report.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Resource (non-financial)

Work connected with the Community Plan and the administration of the Local Strategic Partnership is undertaken through existing resources.

Conclusion

The percentage of key success measures that are on target to be completed in the 2019/20 Community Plan Annual Report, stands at 96%.

Appendices

Appendix A - Community Plan Annual Report 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Background Papers

None

Sarah Robson

Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Officer - People and Places