

Prosperous Communities Executive Advisory Panel

6th November 2024

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| Report Title | Left Behind Communities in North Northamptonshire Plan - Progress report and transition to Business as Usual |
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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Levelling-Up North Northamptonshire Plan v2.1 December 2023

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide a progress report for the Levelling Up action plan which focusses on the three 'left behind' communities in North Northamptonshire and to set out how this work is being progressed as business as usual.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 An amended motion at Full Council on 28th July 2021 called for the Scrutiny Commission to review the underlying data and associated report relating to areas highlighted as "left behind" and bring forward a proposed plan to work towards 'levelling up' those left behind areas.
- 2.2 Since the General Election in July 2024 the Government has asked Local Authorities to no longer use the term 'levelling up'.
- 2.3 The Scrutiny Review concluded its work with a report to Scrutiny Commission on 5th July 2022. The content of the final report was subsequently agreed by the Executive on 25th August 2022, and the proposed plan to be progressed under the political leadership of the Executive Member for Housing and Communities, with the Executive Director for Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing.
- 2.4 This report summarises some of the achievements to date, what work is underway, where the work sits within the Council, or within partner organisations, and how this work is now being progressed as business as usual.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Executive Advisory Panel:
- a) Considers the progress against the original 'Levelling Up' Plan in North Northamptonshire.
 - b) Notes the proposal to transition the programme to business as usual
- 3.2. Reasons for Recommendations:
- i) The agenda to support the identified 'left behind' communities remains a national and local priority and of importance to council members. The scrutiny review was undertaken because of an amended motion and agreement at Full Council on 28th July 2021
- 3.2 Alternative Options Considered:
- i) Do not follow the governance set out in the 'Levelling Up' plan.
 - ii) Continue to follow the governance in the plan and not transfer into business as usual activity.
- 3.3 Following a further review and collation of activity against the recommendations in the plan and on clarity as to which service area or partner organisation is responsible for any ongoing activity, it is a better use of officer time to focus on delivery through business as usual and associated governance channels, rather than on reporting to the additional governance mechanisms that were put in place to oversee the 'Levelling Up' plan.

4 Report Background

- 4.1 An amended motion at Full Council on 28th July 2021 called for the Scrutiny Commission to review the underlying data and associated report relating to areas highlighted as "left behind" and bring forward a proposed plan to work towards 'Levelling Up' those left behind areas.
- 4.2 The Scrutiny Review concluded its work with a report to Scrutiny Commission on 5th July 2022. The content of the final report was subsequently agreed by the Executive on 25th August 2022, and the proposed plan to be progressed under the political leadership of the Executive Member for Housing, Communities and Levelling-Up, with the Executive Director for Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing.
- 4.3 Links to the full report are provided in the background papers section of this report.
- 4.4 A governance structure via a 'Levelling Up' Delivery Group was put in place to maintain momentum and ensure delivery of the Levelling Up plan.

- 4.5 It was recognised from the start of the programme, that delivery of the plan needed to be managed through a matrix approach. This means that there are already services or partnership and governance arrangements delivering aspects of the plan's recommendations. This will facilitate the proposed transition to business as usual.
- 4.6 **Table 1 below** provides a comprehensive overview of work delivered to date, including examples of milestones and achievements, and details of which Council service or partner agency is responsible for the activity. There is some overlap in activity under more than one priority. Where this is the case the example is provided only once.

Table 1

| Short term Priorities | Levelling Up Plan Recommendation | Examples of Key Activity and Achievements | BAU mechanism |
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| <p>Improving engagement and communications</p> <p>(Communication and information sharing were highlighted as weaknesses at times and the council should engage with communities around the preferred ways that key information can be shared)</p> | | <p>Establishment of 7 Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) and 4 Place Based Partnerships (PBPs) in November 2022 as systematic approach to community engagement and collaborative problem solving in a place. Resident Engagement Plans now in place for LAPs and a training package has been commissioned on engagement best practice for Council staff and Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise colleagues to be delivered Quarter 4 2024/5.</p> <p>LAP Asset map produced to show what the service and asset offer is in each LAP area during 2023.</p> <p>Training delivered to LAP members on how to use the asset mapping tool.</p> <p>LAP website under development to be available by April 2025.</p> <p>FreshFest event held in Wellingborough in September 2023 through the Wellingborough LAPs to promote local offer to young people. 63% of young people attended were from left behind areas.</p> <p>LAP coordinators are becoming the go to people in a local area, connecting organizations and joining the dots and sending out regular comms across the LAP network.</p> | <p>LAPs and PBPs. Governance via A New Sense of Place Oversight Group, NN Place Delivery Board & NN HWBB. Exec Member is Cllr Gill Mercer</p> |
| | | <p>The ICB, as a result of work undertaken in the Place Based Partnerships, created an online Insight Hub for partners and stakeholders during 2023 to capture and share all community consultation and engagement activity across Northamptonshire.</p> | <p>LAPs and PBPs. Governance via A New Sense of Place Oversight Group, NN Place Delivery Board & NN HWBB. Exec Member is Cllr Gill Mercer</p> |

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| <p>The Well Northants Programme was a resident-led asset-based community development programme run with Public Health funding during 2022 and 2023 targeting the 3 left behind neighbourhoods. Neighbourhood Action Groups and Plans for the 3 areas were developed. Numerous community engagement events were held over the period. 606 residents engaged. During winter 2023 engagement events in Kettering and Corby were run, providing small hampers as part of an engagement opportunity with key stakeholders. Over 100 attendees across two events. October 2023 engagement event in Kettering engaged families and young people with over 100 attendees. A sustainable community group has developed out of a pilot tots group implemented as part of Participatory Budgeting project. Intergenerational planter project delivered at the Grange shopping precinct, Kettering</p> | <p>Communities and Wellbeing Service core activity, Well Northants is being embedded into the new Stronger Communities team. Executive Member is Cllr Gill Mercer.</p> |
| <p>NN Leisure Active Families programme being run including the 4 locality Active Families Fun Days across NN in August each year. Hundreds of residents engaged in fun activities and with local services.</p> | <p>NN Leisure service core activity as part of Active Communities Service. A new Active Communities Strategic Partnership is also being formed. Executive Member is Cllr Helen Howell.</p> |
| <p>The Council's Communities Strategy was co-produced with the VCSE during the second half of 2023 and early 2024, with over 110 different organisations involved, The Strategy emphasises and strengthens the role the VCSE, residents and communities have in delivering the BIG50 Vision, the North Northamptonshire Council's Corporate Plan and the Northamptonshire Integrated Care System's Live Your Best Life Strategy. It develops a coordinated vision and framework for effective partnership working on equal terms, and, wherever possible, co-production with the VCSE organisations and partner organisations. It sets out the Council's approach to the financial investment it makes into the VCSE, which</p> | <p>Delivery of the Communities Strategy is core business for the Communities and Wellbeing service and forms a key part of the new VCSE Infrastructure contract. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley.</p> |

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| <p>promotes sustainability, through access to a range of funding sources, including strategic and small grant giving by the Council, and larger scale infrastructure support into the sector. Finally, it seeks to strengthen the ability of the VCSE sector to deliver services and connect communities through engaging residents, leading community action, supporting volunteering, supporting people in the most vulnerable situations, and brokering relationships between statutory bodies and communities.</p> | |
| <p>Council Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Infrastructure arrangements support VCSE networks of over 300 organisations. Regular communications and weekly news bulletins are sent to VCSE organisations across North Northamptonshire regarding events, funding opportunities, training, LAPs, PBPs, jobs etc. Plus a monthly VCSE Engagement Group meeting is held to engage the VCSE in all things Integrated Care system and Big 50. A new enhanced VCSE Infrastructure contract to deliver the main themes of the Communities Strategy has been procured and will be awarded by 1st December 2024 for a 3 year period, with a value of £200k per annum.</p> | <p>VCSE Infrastructure contract management is core activity for the Communities and Wellbeing Service. Also reported into the by the NN VCSE Oversight Group. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley</p> |
| <p>The Council delivers a range of grant programmes into the VCSE, including small grants, the Member Empowerment Fund and Strategic VCSE grants, all to the value of over £500k per annum. During early 2024 the new strategic grants were issued following a series of comprehensive market engagement events with the Sector. In addition, the Council has administered a series of Shared Prosperity Funded grants in recent years for left behind communities, rural communities, capital works in community facilities and for community safety projects. All involve considerable communication, promotion and information sharing with our VCSE network and our communities.</p> | <p>VCSE grant administration is core activity for the Communities and Wellbeing service. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley.</p> |
| <p>Household Support Fund (HSF) 4 and HSF Extension during 2023-4 and April 24- Sept 24 HSF programme involved the promotion of grants and hardship support via communication and NNC officers undertaking and community outreach work. HSF5 began in October 2025 and will provide more of the same.</p> | <p>HSF administration is core activity for the Communities and Wellbeing Service. Executive</p> |

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| | | Member is Cllr Gill Mercer. |
| | <p>KHL Big Local has been a 10 year Lottery Funded programme since 2014 in Kingswood and Hazel Leys which are left behind areas. The money awarded was for residents themselves to oversee the funding spend in ways they had identified to improve their communities. This approach was to create empowered, resilient, dynamic, asset-rich communities, making their own decisions on what was best for the areas. The KHL Big Local Steering Group developed the following aims for their local plan:</p> <p>A place where everyone feels included, valued, and contributes to the ambitions and visions of the local community; working together with a strong community spirit and a sense of pride in our surroundings and us; developing a healthy, well, and thriving place where people live side by side with mutual respect, appreciating the value that everyone can contribute.</p> <p>The KHL Big Local partnership was constituted in 2014. The 10 members either work / train or live in the area and have overseen the delivery of the local plan, created through consultation with the local community. Over the 10 years of the programme the steering group has used direct funding and commissioning to support a range of projects, a selection of which are listed below:</p> <p>improvements to the community centres on both estates;</p> <p>financial support to provide training for local organisations who work with families; match funding for a community In Shed initiative; in partnership with the Northants Community Foundation, developed a grant scheme for small community projects; organised several Field Day Festivals; funded parties, youth clubs, and outreach work; supported parent and child drop-in sessions and health and wellbeing initiatives, in partnership with the Council's Communities and Leisure services.</p> <p>KHL was also chosen as one of 5 big local areas as a pilot for the Creative Civic Change 3-year funding programme, which ended October 2022. This programme set out to enable communities across England to use creativity to make meaningful changes in their local areas. KHL has worked closely with Made with Many, Cory Community Arts, the Core Theatre and with local artists, to engage</p> | <p>VCSE run programme which fully comes to an end 2026.</p> <p>Communities and Leisure services for NNC maintain good working relationships with the key partners involved.</p> |

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| <p>the community through creative projects. These projects have included: hosting of open mic nights; art commissioning for murals within the estates; campervan outreach sessions; art packs delivered to families.</p> <p>As part of the KHL Big local Home Start has been able to reach families and volunteers from within the KHL areas who they may not otherwise have reached. Since April 2020 47% of families Home Start have supported through home visiting and groups have come from these areas. Also, within the same timeframe they have recruited 15% of volunteers from within these areas and 2 members of staff with the average time for volunteers being 4 years with the organisation and supporting on average 3 families at any one time.</p> <p>Another great success is the funded advice sessions delivered by the local Citizens Advice Bureau on the estates. These have been supplied from the community centre's twice a week. To date, £4.7 million of financial support has been achieved through families accessing benefits, debts being cancelled, and accessing disability funding, as residents feel able to go into their community centre for help.</p> <p>As the funding for the KHL Big Local project must be fully spent by 2026, the KHL Local Partnership are considering the legacy of this project, both physical and visual, such as the funded skate park and in Shed for the community use, but also the social impact. Partnerships have been formed locally and nationally, and there is work being undertaken in the KHL area to understand and measure the impact the Big Local Investment has made, and is continuing to make, in the area. The KHL Partnership would like there to be a longevity to this legacy and ensure the successes, partnerships, engagement, improvements and accessibility to services that have been achieved so far are built on and developed further.</p> | |
| <p>Aligned with the new Hemmingwell Project, the “Wellingborough People Project, Voices Report was completed following a community consultation, completed between April 2023 to February 2024, conducted for the Crysals Foundation. The consultation involved 588 residents across Queensway, Kingsway and Hemmingwell, including</p> | <p>VCSE run project being supported by NNC and partners.</p> |

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| | <p>488 children and young people and 100 adults consulted. Intelligence from this report is informing the Hemmingwell project, the LAP and will inform the new Sport England Place Expansion work in the area.</p> | |
| | <p>The Family Hub programme has been instrumental in driving comprehensive community engagement over the last 2 years to inform the programme. Examples include: SEND strategy co-production charter; Family Hub development has helped to understand the communities overall; for ages 0-19 (25 with SEND needs), asset mapping; new Digital Front Door co-produced with families and stakeholders, launched in August 2024; co-production of a Communication and marketing strategy; Voice of the child project, how the young people interact with their community.</p> | <p>Family Hubs programme is transitioning to BAU in Year 3, core activity for Children's Services. Programme Board in place. Executive Member is Cllr Scott Edwards.</p> |
| | <p>Over 50 Warm Spaces promoted on the Council's website and supported during winters 2022-3 and 2023-4, promoting local service and support offers and engaging with vulnerable residents. Further funding to support Warm Spaces to be offered via the Household Support Fund 5 during winter 2024-25.</p> | <p>Communities and Wellbeing Service core activity, Executive Member is Cllr Gill Mercer.</p> |
| <p>Businesses, communities, networking and problem solving</p> <p>(There are opportunities to work closer with local businesses on community projects and issues and setting up a forum or networking).</p> | <p>As part of Well Northants a Social Action project with businesses and residents was delivered to clean up the Grange Shopping Area. Project delivered with Brightways and Groundwork to develop a bicycle project in Avondale and the Grange which has been linked to HMP 5 Wells, focusing on employability skills As a result of discussions at Wellingborough LAP a partnership developed between community groups and HMP Five Wells to develop a community café in Wellingborough town centre.</p> | <p>Communities and Wellbeing Service core activity, Well Northants is being embedded into the new Stronger Communities team. Executive Member is Cllr Gill Mercer.</p> |
| | <p>NN Social Enterprise Network was established several years ago and is now a thriving network for not for profit businesses in the county. The network has become embedded with the LAP and wider VCSE Infrastructure in North Northamptonshire</p> | <p>VCSE Infrastructure is core activity for the Communities and Wellbeing Service. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley</p> |
| | <p>Proactive Care and Support North Northants (SNN). The Council recognises that to reduce demand on services, it must make substantial cultural changes, placing residents, communities</p> | <p>SNN is joint funded by Public Health, the ICP, the Lottery and</p> |

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| <p>and the VCSE sector at the heart of improving community resilience. Investing in prevention and early intervention is critical, for example through social prescribing, an approach that links patients and residents with non-clinical sources of support within the community. In North Northamptonshire this includes Primary Care link workers based in GP Practices, Activity on Referral Schemes through our Leisure Services and SPRING Social Prescribing, a Health and Public Health funded outcomes-focused model delivered by a collaboration of organisations to provide interventions for residents with one or more long term health condition. In addition, in mid-2023 the Council was instrumental in supporting the VCSE to develop a new VCSE-led whole-system, early intervention service, Support North Northants (SNN), as a test and learn programme. SNN is a system-wide collaborative service model with the VCSE, statutory and private businesses to provide earlier intervention and prevention of escalation of issues for adults over 18 and their families. During the first year of operation a small SNN team was recruited, hosted across three VCSE organisations, and additional investment was made into other VCSE organisations to provide key support services which have been identified as gaps early on, such as benefits checks for all SNN service-users and home repairs and safety where needed. It has taken the majority of its cases from the Adult Social Care front door, having a positive impact on demand. SNN is a practical emerging example of the collaboration between the Council with the VCSE by the VCSE across the sectors, as part of the ICS Place programme. Since August 2023 it has supported over 600 residents and engaged with over 140 partner agencies, including 14 from the private sector.</p> | <p>some Housing Associations and is co-directed by an Council Assistant Director. It reports into the NN Place Delivery Board and HWBB. Executive Member is Cllr Gill Mercer.</p> |
| <p>The Council is now leading a programme of work to develop a system-wide proactive care model for the county bringing together and aligning programmes such as SNN, Social Prescribing and Ageing Well, which involve collaborations between statutory, VCSE and private sector organisations</p> | <p>Programme reports into the ICS Health Inequalities and Prevention Board. Executive Member is Cllr Gill Mercer.</p> |
| <p>Discover NN established and the DN Hub at Rushden Lakes promotes local businesses to residents and communities and also the VCSE and the Local Council offer to businesses and vice versa. It is an innovative, interactive space</p> | |

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| <p>developed and opened in early 2023 using Shared Prosperity funding.</p> | |
| <p>The Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) programme for business start-ups and SMEs runs through Library Service and has been additionally funded via Shared Prosperity funding for 2022-24. Between April 2021-March 2024 369 individuals / businesses were seen by BIPC, of which 45 were from Kettering, 44 from Corby and 106 from Wellingborough.</p> | <p>BIPC is core business for the Library Service. Executive Member is Cllr Helen Howell.</p> |
| <p>As part of KHL Big Local NNC Leisure Services have worked in partnership with members of the community and Creative Civic Change, to deliver two projects to install skateable spaces in the form of a free-to-use high-quality skatepark at Kingswood and a Learn to Ride mini pump track at Hazel Ley's, both of which are suitable for all wheeled users. The installations have provided a base for engagement and diversionary activity project in which young people have the opportunity to learn new employability and life skills for example first aid training, sports leadership qualifications. The Kingswood project developed into Kingswood Urban Development (KUD), supported by Northamptonshire Sport to provide a community hub for residents of all ages encouraging healthy active lifestyles. For example, during the summer holidays 2024 a KUD Summer Activity Programme was organised which engaged with 248 children and young people. 67 of those attendees had Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Over the 6 weeks, 48 hours of physical activity was organised and made accessible to those living on Kingswood. This is additional to the KUD Activity Programme that already provides 7 hours per week of free physical activities on the Kingswood Estate.</p> | <p>KUD is led by the VCSE via the Linwood Co-operative with support from NSport and the Council.</p> |
| <p>Working in partnership with KHL and local businesses, the Council supported, through officer time and project guidance, the Community in Sheds project adjacent to Hazelwood Neighbourhood Centre in Corby during 2021 with it completing and opening in 2022. The Shed contains woodwork/art/3D printing workshop space and enables and empowers residents to learn new skills and participate in individual or community led activities.</p> | <p>KHL is a community-led programme over 10 years to 2024, hosted by Groundwork Northamptonshire</p> |
| <p>NNC has adopted a new strategy for Tackling Litter and Fly-tipping.</p> | <p>Core business for the Waste team. Executive</p> |

Pride in our neighbourhoods- street scene

(Consider how to improve street scene in left behind areas both through council services but also community partnership approaches including fund raising)

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| <p>Started under KHL Big Local the Council's Community Safety team continue to work on the two estates delivering programmes such hate crime, anti-bullying and recycling workshops/assemblies; the Safer Communities Big PIC anti-litter campaign Corby held in September each year via a community clean-up.</p> <p>Commenced pilot project with Probation Service on Rapid Deployment Project – to target resources for cleansing, graffiti removal, vegetation clearance and removal, ditch clearances. Regular Amnesty days are held across targeted areas.</p> <p><u>Kingswood</u> Works completed were along all streets running along Dunedin Road between Sower Leys Road and Colyers Avenue, through an amnesty event. The decanting of green waste and builders waste into more manageable bags and taken to a designated pick-up point. Helped residents remove unwanted waste from property and gardens. Streets were litter picked and swept. Tagged and offensive graffiti painted out. Approximately 12 tonnes of materials removed from the estate. Home fire safety checks completed. Residents informed off fly tipping, anti-social behaviour, waste disposal, and other information on what is available to them through the safer communities' team and other partners.</p> <p><u>Avondale Grange</u> This has now been revamped considerably, with all street furniture repainted, to include all barriers, bike rails, post box, seating areas and planters. The block paving in the precinct brushed and jet washed, and the surrounding areas deweeded, swept and cleaned of debris, leaving the area a much more pleasant area to shop in, as has been fed back to us by the residents through social media.</p> <p><u>Laburnum Crescent Garages</u> Has been de-weeded, brushed, litter picked and cleaned, and all waste removed to leave the area in a much better state.</p> <p><u>Almond Road Garage Area</u> The planned date for this to be addressed is week commencing the 14th of October 2024. There is a planned amnesty day for the removal of accumulated waste around the area, and residents</p> | <p>Member is Cllr Matt Binley.</p> <p>Core activity for the Community Safety team. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley.</p> <p>Relationship with Probation Service and Community Payback is managed by the Community Safety Service and reports into the North Community Safety Partnership Board. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley.</p> |
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| <p>have been informed of the events that are planned throughout the week on the estate, along with other partners reiterating the work done on the Kingswood estate.</p> <p>Hazel Leys and Queensway areas are being scheduled for later in 2024 or early in 2025.</p> <p><u>Queensway</u> Improvements largely completed under the Safer Streets programme round 5. Improvements focused on physical security improvements: CCTV, alleygates, door replacements on residential dwellings by Greatwell Homes and development of the bike track.</p> <p>Community Payback supported the painting of various underpasses and improvements to their entrances and the lighting by Kier.</p> | |
| <p>At Burns Road community garden, Queensway, Greatwell Homes consulted residents and liaised local councillors to design a community garden that includes new play equipment, fruit trees and communal seating.</p> <p>Greatwell Homes have conducted a complete tree survey of the Queensway estate, and have moved to proactively trim, and repair those trees in need of maintenance. They are now moving to survey trees in customer gardens and will do the same with them.</p> <p>Greatwell Homes have created a new project 'Your Great Spaces' which encourages customers to identify areas in their community that are a bit tired or could be put to better use.</p> <p>https://www.greatwellhomes.org.uk/greatwell-homes-launches-your-great-spaces/</p> <p>Greatwell's Head of Housing has been working with NNC to try and adopt consistent standards with NNC for the management of green spaces and verges.</p> <p>Greatwell have completely re-created their neighbourhood management policy, as a co-creation exercise with tenants and had the revised policy signed off by our customer assembly (which shows customers believe their voice to be heard). The policy now contains sections to cover where customers wish to develop or manage green spaces on their own.</p> | <p>Projects directly delivered by Greatwell Homes who are a key partner as the main housing provider for the Queensway and Hemmingwell areas. Executive Member is Cllr Mar Rowley.</p> |
| <p>Over £1m of SPF funding has been allocated to the Urban Greenspace Improvement Programme</p> | <p>Programme is being delivered by the Assets</p> |

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| | | <p>for the creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces. Programme is aimed at the urban areas of Corby, Desborough, Higham Ferrers / Rushden, Kettering and Wellingborough.</p> <p>The Strategy identified the top 5 features (wildlife area, trees in parks, paths and hard surfaces, shrubs and hedges, children’s play equipment) to focus on, and these formed the basis of the scoring matrix which identified the priority projects to be delivered during 2024 and 2025.</p> | <p>and Environment teams and reports into the SPF Member panel. Executive Member is Cllr Matt Binley.</p> |
| <p>Install more bleed boxes</p> <p>(Consider how to support and raise funds for additional bleed kit boxes in priority areas across North Northamptonshire)</p> | | <p>Largely funded by Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners Office many new bleed boxes installed and an interactive map has been produced and published.</p> | <p>Work overseen by OPFCC but reports into the NN Community Safety Partnership Board. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley.</p> |
| Medium Term | Levelling Up Plan Recommendation | Examples of Key Activity and Achievements | BAU mechanism |
| | <p>Supporting Community and Voluntary groups to write bids and develop projects</p> <p>(The council should consider how to work with partners to produce guidance to enable small, medium & large organisations to develop ideas sufficiently to be ready to be included in bids when funding is available)</p> | <p>Annual Funding Fairs delivered to support VCSE</p> | <p>Core activity for the Communities and Wellbeing Service. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley</p> |
| | | <p>VCSE organisations supported to submit bids for various NNC VCSE grant programmes e.g. over £4000 of Member Empowerment funding has been allocated to the left behind areas.</p> | <p>Core activity for the Communities and Wellbeing Service. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley</p> |
| | | <p>LAPs supported to develop ideas for projects which contribute to LAP action plans and to submit bids for LAP (Health Inequalities) funding. Examples include the event at the Grange Shopping Precinct to raise public awareness of services, mental health z-cards produced, mental health posters have been distributed to at least 80 different venues including GP practices. Volunteer Fair and Cost of Living events delivered in Corby.</p> | <p>LAPs and PBPs. Governance via A New Sense of Place Oversight Group, NN Place Delivery Board & NN HWBB. Exec Member is Cllr Gill Mercer</p> |

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| | <p>VCSE organisations were engaged around their future requirements for funding support and bid writing to inform the Communities Strategy and the future VCSE Infrastructure contract specification. Support with funding bids was a clear ask. The new Infrastructure contract has clear requirements in relation to funding support such as effective and where appropriate collaborative bid writing and project development which levers in new funding into North Northamptonshire and delivers innovative solutions to local issues. The new contract will be mobilised from December 2024 and performance of the contract will be closely monitored.</p> | <p>VCSE Infrastructure contract management is core activity for the Communities and Wellbeing Service. Also reported into the by the NN VCSE Oversight Group. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley</p> |
| | <p>VCSE organisations directly supported during early summer 2024 to develop substantial (up to £500k capital) bids for the £5M Culture investment fund.</p> <p>A smaller capital grants fund will be administered should the funding be released by central government.</p> | <p>If funding is released by central government the recipients will continue to be supported to deliver by both the Culture, Tourism and Heritage and Communities services. Executive Member is Cllr Helen Howell.</p> |
| <p>Crowd Funding</p> <p>(The council could explore procuring a crowd funding platform to enable organisations to leverage other funding, sponsorship and support to get behind projects they wish to progress)</p> | <p>Funding support is a key theme of the Communities Strategy and the new VCSE Infrastructure contract. Council officers will continue to work closely with the VCSE to explore all potential funding platforms and opportunities.</p> | <p>VCSE Infrastructure contract management is core activity for the Communities and Wellbeing Service. Also reported into the by the NN VCSE Oversight Group. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley</p> |
| <p>The return on investment of strategically investing in local youth work</p> | <p>Total of £105,000 invested in 2023/4 youth related projects through Shared Prosperity Funding: £24,000 for Queensway for positive activities for young people and youth games equipment; £24,000 for Avon Dale and Grange for a safe</p> | <p>VCSE grant administration is core activity for the Communities</p> |

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| <p>(Youth work was seen as a priority & the scrutiny review group recommend that a cost-benefit exercise could be undertaken to determine return on investment of strategically investing in local youth work)</p> | <p>space and events and equipment for young people, and for an early years drop in centre, and for new baby changing facilities; £35,000 for Kingswood and Hazel Leys for the Kingswood Urban development project for young people and education programmes around vaping and drug substance misuse as well as a young person's music project. Projects delivered across all 3 areas were also funded (£22,000) for drugs education, life skills, wellbeing support, detached youth work and therapeutic art sessions all for young people.</p> | <p>and Wellbeing service. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley.</p> |
| <p>Assessing strategies and approaches to address county lines, drug dealing and knife crime</p> <p>(All partners should work together to review and update the current strategies and approaches to address county lines, drug dealing and knife crime)</p> | <p>Knife Angel Knife Crime awareness programme delivered during 2022 in Corby and Wellingborough.</p> <p>Knife Crime Awareness campaign supported annually</p> | <p>Core activity for the Community Safety service, reports into the North Community Safety Partnership Board. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley.</p> |
| | <p>Multi-agency needs assessment undertaken in 2023 to inform the new Serious Violence Strategy for Northamptonshire. New Strategy and action plan has been produced and adopted. Council officers sit on the county-wide steering group. Year one and two funding has been invested via the OPFCC's office into a range of community initiatives to tackle county lines and knife crime across the county such as Upskill You and Exodus; The Turnaround programme; Saints</p> | <p>Core activity for the Community Safety service, reports into the North Community Safety Partnership Board. Executive</p> |

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| | | Project; Blue butterfly project; Positive Relationships (primary schools); Youth Knowledge Bank; Life Education; Bleed kits /dummy; Crime stoppers and Parents under pressure. | Member is Cllr Mark Rowley. |
| | | <p>“Stand up to crime” is a programme currently being delivered using Safer Streets 5 funding overseen the OPFCC. It is a pilot project to roll out forensic marking kits and other crime prevention material and devices to houses in locations suffering higher than average levels of burglary. Two pilot sites were chosen, with one being Kingswood in Corby. The first stage of this has been completed with approximately 1500 kits distributed and in use. Additional activity to support this will include: roll out of support packages to second hand dealers; use of additional forensic marking kits to repeat and vulnerable victims; in spring of 2025 a rollout of a crime prevention kit in a box idea to rural parishes to support local communities make their communities safer from acquisitive crime.</p> | Overseen by the OPFCC, reports into the Community Safety Partnership Board. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley. |
| | | <p>Combatting Drugs Partnership established during 2022 across the county and is leading on the work to address County Lines and other crime and substance use related issues.</p> | Core activity for the Community Safety service, reports into the North Community Safety Partnership Board. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley. |
| Longer Term | Levelling Up Plan Recommendation | Examples of Key Activity and Achievements | BAU Mechanism |
| | <p>Community Hub Strategy</p> <p>(The council will benefit from working closely with partners and communities to develop a community hub strategy that focuses on the needs of those communities rather than a one size fits all approach)</p> | <p>NNC support for Community Hubs such as the Grange in Kettering, Kingswood Urban Development, Communities in Sheds at Hazel leys in Corby.</p> <p>A number of community hubs are delivered from NNC devolved community centres which continue to receive funding support for core costs from NNC and will continue to do so in 2024-5, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Victoria Centre, Wellingborough • Glamis Hall, Hemmingwell, Wellingborough • Kingswood Community Centre, Corby • Danesholme Community Centre, Corby • Beanfield Community Centre, Corby | <p>VCSE Infrastructure contract management is core activity for the Communities and Wellbeing Service, as is support to community centres. Also report into the by the NN VCSE Oversight Group. Executive</p> |

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| | | Member is Cllr Mark Rowley |
| | In addition, the development of a Dementia Centre of Excellence is being supported by Public Health. This builds on the excellent offer delivered by The Autumn Centre in Corby. | Reports into Public Health Senior Leadership team. Executive Member is Cllr Gill Mercer. |
| | <p>Since February 2024, the Northamptonshire VCSE Assembly has been helping co-ordinate the involvement of the Council, statutory and VCSE services to support the Hemmingwell community build capacity and re-invigorating the Hemmingwell Community and Skills Centre. A Community Interest Organisation has been established and the project's vision is to help all ages/generations on Hemmingwell, become a physically, cognitively, socially active community, living healthy lives in a safe environment, relatively free from the threat of crime and violence, so that all can thrive and live their best lives, with HCSC at the forefront of providing innovative support to care for and sustain families in need of helping hands.</p> <p>It is hoped to go some way to achieving this by developing a whole-family-community approach to mental health and wellbeing, taking a cross-thematic, cross-agency collaborative approach in engaging with all members of the Hemmingwell Community, working together to deliver a positive sustainable outcome.</p> <p>This includes the aim to maintain and manage the community centre known as The HCSC; to maintain and manage the building in co-operation with the leaseholders, Greatwell Homes. Community and stakeholder consultation including working with the LAP, has been undertaken. The programme of work being planned and implemented is an ideal opportunity to drive positive leadership and cultural change in the community, with the aim of preventing or at least reducing serious violence</p> <p>Place-based services and solutions aimed at reducing isolation; up-skilling young adults, making full use of the Skills Centre in the HCSC; developing positive leadership; tackling vulnerabilities; encouraging cultural change such that young people adopt behaviours and mindsets that lead to higher values and goals for their futures.</p> | VCSE led project being supported by the Council and partners |
| Estate Regeneration Strategy | New NN Housing Strategy has been developed and one of the four strategic priorities is 'Improving the quality of the existing housing | Core activity for Housing services. |

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| (Poor quality of housing was identified across the wards where this work was undertaken and a strategy that considers larger scale ambitious regeneration of some of these estates could be considered) | stock to provide decent, energy efficient and safe homes ⁷ . There are plans to develop an Estate Regeneration Strategy for the NNC housing stock. | Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley |
| | Housing Repairs backlog project undertaken to successfully clear repairs backlog for Council tenants. | Core activity for Housing services. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley |
| Safer Streets- Street Lighting and CCTV (Consider how to develop a strategy to improve street lighting and CCTV and how this could be piloted in Levelling up communities on the theme of “Safer Streets”) | Safer Streets Government funded programmes delivered during 2021-2023. New Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras installed on both Hemmingwell and Queensway estates in Wellingborough. | Core activity for the Community Safety service.. Safer Streets programmes for CCTV now complete. |
| | Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner committed funding to Safer Streets Lite projects during 2022-23 which saw improved street lighting in Kingswood and improvements to the underpass on the Queensway estate, in conjunction with students from Wheelers Academy | Core activity for the Community Safety service. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley |
| | Comprehensive review of CCTV service has been undertaken to include infrastructure, connectivity, staffing, repairs and maintenance and monitoring arrangements. Discovery report drafted. Invest to save options appraisal to be undertaken to inform future investment into the Council’s CCTV provision. | Core activity for the Community Safety service. Executive Member is Cllr Mark Rowley |
| Putting communities at the heart of levelling up (Consider a longer-term approach to monitor and update on outcomes and successes specifically related to this agenda in ways that engage our communities) | <p>Whilst this was set out as a long term approach it is already being embedded through the ICS Place programme via Place Based Partnerships and Local Area Partnership, building on learning from the Well Northants programme, which took an asset-based community development approach.</p> <p>An emerging example of an integrated place-based programme is the Sport England Place Expansion work. Northamptonshire has received £302,000 as an initial development grant for 4 neighbourhoods, 3 of which are in North Northamptonshire (Kingswood and Lodge Park in Corby and Queensway in Wellingborough). The principles sitting behind the Place Expansion work are ones of collaboration, being place-based and community-led, co-designing with communities, building on the existing local assets to build capacity and social capital by leveraging the strengths within those communities. The work will</p> | <p>LAPs and PBPs. Governance is via A New Sense of Place Oversight Group, NN Place Delivery Board & NN HWBB. Exec Member is Cllr Gill Mercer</p> <p>Sport England Programme is cross cutting and so also report into the Active Communities Strategic Partnership and</p> |

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| | <p>not be about ‘quick wins’, but instead sustainable, long-lasting change that improves people’s health and life outcomes.</p> <p>As well as making a difference for those communities the impact of the Place Expansion work will ripple outwards. Physical activity and active lifestyles will become more embedded in work beyond those four areas. And what is learnt about place-based work, measuring impact and supporting local leadership will be embedded into wider system level efforts to tackle inequalities across Northamptonshire. This initial funding will cover a 12-18month period, with the aim that we will have enough community insights to develop a Full Award to cover the final 3 years of the partnership. This will also include capital funding for facility improvement in the four priority areas.</p> | <p>the North HWBB. Exec Member is Cllr Helen Howell.</p> |
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5 Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The Executive Advisory Panel is asked to consider the transition to management of the range of activity being undertaken into business as usual arrangements for future reporting and monitoring as part of this report’s recommendations.

6 Next Steps

- 6.1 “Next steps” related to the various activities are set out in Table One in the main the body of this report and are subject to decisions of the Executive at its meeting on 14th November 2024.

7 Background Papers

- 7.1 The following background papers are relevant to this update report:
- 7.1.1 Levelling Up North Northamptonshire report presented to NNC Executive 25 August 2022 (pp 272 – 318) ([Public Pack](#))[Agenda Document for Executive, 25/08/2022 14:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)
- 7.1.2 Left behind? Understanding communities on the edge (2019) – full report [local_trust_ocs_i_left_behind_research_august_2019.pdf \(localtrust.org.uk\)](#)
- 7.1.3 Left behind? Understanding communities on the edge (2019) – summary report [Local-Trust-Left-Behind-Report-Executive-Summary-December-2019.pdf \(localtrust.org.uk\)](#)

- 7.1.4 Scrutiny Review in to Levelling Up Communities (24 August 2021)
<https://northnorthants.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s2211/Scrutiny%20Review%20in%20to%20Levelling%20Up%20Communities.pdf>
- 7.2 Scrutiny Review – Levelling Up Communities scoping document (24 August 2021)
[Blank Scrutiny Scoping Document \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)