

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



ECONOMY, COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND WEALTH BUILDING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING UPDATE

REPORT BY DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EDUCATION, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the panel with an update on the development of a Community Wealth Building approach within West Lothian.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the panel:

1. notes the action plan, contained in appendix one, including the planned tasks, responsible officers and timescales for delivery;
2. notes the actions to be undertaken in the next six months and;
3. notes the next steps, outlined in section D4.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	The Community Planning (Scotland) Act 2015 places requirements on the CPP. Environmental, equality, risk and health assessments are considered on a project by project basis.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	High relevance to the SOA (LOIP).
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None
VII Consideration at PDSP	Previously considered at Partnership and Resources PDSP

VIII Other consultations

Community Planning Partners

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

In September the Panel were presented with the Centre for Local Economic Strategy (CLES) finalised report 'Advancing Community Wealth Building in West Lothian'. The report highlighted a number of key existing positive actions which have been taken in West Lothian already to support Community Wealth Building and identified 11 recommendations for action in the short, medium and long term, which have been categorised into four themes; West Lothian as a Community Wealth Building place, communities and neighbourhoods, anchor collaboration and galvanising support.

The report provides an update on the activity to date and highlights the key next steps to be undertaken to develop an approach to Community Wealth building in West Lothian.

D.2 Community Wealth Building – Report recommendations

The recommendation presented by the CLES report have been analysed by officers and initial actions been developed for how these the recommendations could be taken forward in West Lothian. Appendix one contains an action plan detailing each recommendation under the four themes. The plan contains the recommendation, the tasks to be undertaken, the timescales and the responsible officer. The plan will continue to be updated as actions within it are progressed and new areas are identified through continual development of activity.

Some actions to be undertaken in the next six months include:

1. Community engagement activities to generate insight and ideas about community regeneration
2. Bringing Community Planning Partnership procurement leads together to map the procedures in place to gain benefits through contacts procedures / identify further opportunities and identifying existing frameworks
3. Revisit the promotion of the Community Asset Transfer Strategy to focus on the pathways to Community Asset Transfers specifically for the most deprived communities
4. Agree target outcomes and metrics to measure progress towards a sustainable and equitable economy in West Lothian
5. Establish a West Lothian peer-learning network for communities to support each other for asset transfer, community energy and local food sector

Meetings are being held with all Heads of Service to look at the recommendations relating to their service area and to identify additional opportunities for community wealth building development within their services. This will also provide the opportunity to identify relevant strategies, as outlined in objective two, where Community Wealth Building outcomes can be incorporated into key strategies.

The role of anchor institutions remains a key element of the development of

Community Wealth Building. Whilst discussions have been taking place with key Community Planning Partners individually like the NHS, the identification of Community Planning partners and opportunities for development will be undertaken as part of the next cycle of meetings.

D.3 Community Wealth Building Conference

Officers attended the first Community Wealth Building conference in Scotland, hosted by North Ayrshire Council, on the 7 October. The conference provided an opportunity to network with other Community Wealth building officers, hear about exemplar projects and community wealth building activity and to get an update on the government's ambitions for Community Wealth Building.

D.4 Next Steps

Over the next three months the development of the Community Wealth building approach will focus on the following activity:

1. Meeting with all Heads of Service, within West Lothian Council, to look at the opportunities for each service area and how the existing identified recommendations align with service delivery. This will be incorporated into the action plan attached in appendix one.
2. The identification of key Community Planning Partners to be actively involved in the including the identification of where they can support in the delivery of activity.
3. The development of a communication plan for Community Wealth building including the development of options to support increased participation and understanding from the community.

An update on the next steps and recommendations for West Lothian's approach to Community Wealth Building will be brought to the next panel in January 2023.

E. CONCLUSION

This paper highlights the current work being undertaken to develop and take forward an approach to Community Wealth Building in West Lothian.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

22.09.13. Community Wealth Building Update – Economy, Community Empowerment and wealth building Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel
 22.06.21 Community Wealth Building Update – Council Executive
 21.12.21 Community Wealth Building Update – Council Executive

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix one - Development of Community Wealth Building approach in West Lothian

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7 November 2022

Appendix one: Development of Community Wealth Building approach in West Lothian recommendations

As part of the CLES report a number of recommendations were set out covering both the short and medium term. The table below summarises these recommendations, sets out potential actions, a suggested high-level timetable and who is the responsible officer or Service area. Whilst the responsible officer had been identified the Community Wealth building team will support the delivery of each of the recommendations.

Theme one: West Lothian as a Community Wealth Building Place

Recommendation	Timescale	Tasks	Responsible officer / Service
Objective 1: Establish Effective Governance and Delivery Structure			
Establish a Community Wealth Building leadership group comprising of West Lothian Council and CPP	End of December 2022	Identify Community Planning partners to engage in the development of Community Wealth Building.	Community Wealth Building Team
Establish a Coordination group – operational and strategic officers with a lead responsible for embedding and delivering Community Wealth Building	End of December 2022	Develop terms of reference and establish group	Community Wealth Building Team
Learning and Knowledge Sharing through a Community of Practice for bi-annual sharing	End of March 2023 established - ongoing	Build a network of learning which will meet twice per year to discuss best practice, issues and opportunities. Initial meeting will be to raise awareness of the West Lothian approach to Community Wealth Building. Establish Learning and Knowledge Sharing networks with other LA's developing an approach to Community Wealth Building.	Community Wealth Building Team to facilitate the network

Objective 2: Embed Community Wealth Building outcomes in strategic planning for WLC and wider partners			
Embed Community Wealth Building into the refresh of WLC Corporate Plan, Community Planning Partnership LOIP, Procurement Strategy and other relevant strategies	Timescales to align with the update of key strategies	Ensure Community Wealth Building is embedded in the refresh of Council and key partner strategies and service delivery plans.	Community Wealth Building Team to co-ordinate and facilitate supported by relevant strategic leads as required and appropriate
Agree target outcomes and metrics to measure progress towards a sustainable and equitable economy	End of June 2023	Baseline data set to be identified with both qualitative and quantitative measures.	Community Wealth Building Team / Community Planning Partnership officers
Objective 3: Commit to Sustaining Resources to Deliver on Community Wealth Building Ambitions			
Dedicate staffing resources to support development and delivery of Community Wealth Building over medium to long-term	Completed	The creation of the Community Wealth Building team.	Depute Chief Executive, West Lothian Council

Theme 2: Communities and Neighbourhoods

Recommendation	Timescale	Tasks	Responsible officer / Service
Objective 4: Create a Community Wealth Building approach to Local Renewable Energy Generation			
Explore opportunities for municipally owned renewable energy schemes, with income ring-fenced to fund home energy improvements	End of June 2023	Work with officers responsible for the delivery of council energy projects and responsible for the councils Climate Change Strategy to review and identify options. What are the projects already planned that could benefit communities and what opportunities are available. Explore home energy improvement schemes within Social Housing.	Energy and Climate Change Manager, West Lothian Council to lead

Community engagement activities to generate insight and ideas about community energy	End of March 2023	Build energy into community engagement activities as part of the Regeneration team activity including the planned engagement on the refreshed Community Planning Partnership LOIP.	Regeneration Team Leader, West Lothian Council to lead
Objective 5: Build a Resilient and Generative Food Sector			
Explore opportunities, with the West Lothian Food Network, to develop commercially viable food supply businesses	End of March 2023	Through Anti-Poverty working group and Economic Development liaise with West Lothian Food Network, to identify viable opportunities.	Economic Development, West Lothian Council to lead
Investigate spending of anchor institutions on food and catering, to identify opportunities to work towards redirecting spend to more local and social providers	End of March 2023	Working with anchor organisations to analyse spend data.	Head of Corporate Services, West Lothian Council to lead with support from Community Wealth Building team
Embed the goal of growing locally owned, generative social food businesses into plans for food and drink in West Lothian	End of June 2023	Identification of opportunities for locally grown food supplies and identify opportunities for bidding for contracts. Work together to create a sustainable food place in West Lothian.	Economic Development, West Lothian Council to lead
Objective 6: Increase Development of Land and Assets by and for the Community			
Establish a West Lothian peer-learning network for communities to support each other for asset transfer, community energy and local food sector	End of March 2023	Options for the establishment of a peer support group to be developed. Existing networks to be utilised.	Regeneration Team, West Lothian Council to lead
Revisit the promotion of the Community Asset Transfer	End of March 2023	Review and refresh approach to supporting deprived communities to engage with	Property Services, West Lothian Council to lead

Strategy to focus on the pathways to Community Asset Transfers specifically for the most deprived communities		Community Asset Transfer particularly where capacity and resource are a challenge. Ensure appropriate promotion of support available.	
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Theme 3: Anchor Collaboration

Recommendation	Timescale	Tasks	Responsible officer / Service
Objective 7: Utilise Anchor Institution Spending on Goods and Services as a Key Tool for Tackling Priority Social, Economic and Environmental Change			
Bring Community Planning Partnership procurement leads together to map existing community benefit procedures / opportunities and existing frameworks	End of March 2023	Review procurement spend and explore the possibility to look at a cross-working community benefit approach with Community Planning partners	Head of Corporate Services, West Lothian Council to Lead with support from the Community Planning Partnership Officer
Identify a core set of community benefit priorities to be embedded across the Community Planning Partnership	End of September 2023	To agree a core set of principles on Community Benefit that all Community Planning Partnership can buy-into and implement.	Head of Corporate Services, West Lothian Council to Lead with support from the Community Planning Partnership Officer
Objective 8: Linking Third Sector with Anchor Suppliers to Achieve Community Benefit Realisation			
Work with the third sector interface, WLC and wider Community Planning Partnership procurement teams and West Lothian Chamber of Commerce to scope out a potential model for a platform to link third sector partners with prospective anchor institution Community Benefit opportunities	End of June 2023	As part of development of the proposed approach to community benefits, how the third sector can access community benefits should be included, as well as identified community needs. City Deal / NHS portal to be explored as a mechanism to join together the community need and opportunities.	Community Wealth Building team to lead

Objective 9: Increase Recruitment by Anchor Institutions from the Most Deprived Neighbourhoods and Communities			
Establish the baseline position in relation to Community Planning Partnership partner recruitment from the regeneration areas, establishing the number of people currently employed and their pay grade	End of June 2023	Analyse data from Community Planning Partnership on their current staffing demographic and their recruitment policies. Identify areas of opportunity and where policies can be aligned including if there are skill shortages that need addressed and are there certain areas under represented	Community Planning Partnership Officer to lead
Identify third sector partners active in these regeneration areas and working on providing employment support	End of March 2023	Liaise with Employability Service to identify third sector partners who work with communities on employability skills, list should link in with anchor organisations.	Economic Development, West Lothian Council to lead
Work with third sector to identify opportunities to test out new approaches to engaging with and providing pre-employment support for prospective candidates	End of August 2023	<p>New engagement processes to be identified through the No One Left behind engagement and the other community engagement activity being undertaken as part of the Community Wealth Building action plan. This will help to identify the most effective way to engage people, needing pre-employment support, and work with the identified third sector partners to have a new way of engaging on support and training.</p> <p>Include within the engagement and support those face precarious employment.</p>	Economic Development, West Lothian Council to lead

Theme 4: Galvanising Support

Recommendation	Timescale	Tasks	Responsible officer / Service
Objective 10: Build Private Sector Engagement in Community Wealth Building			
Work closely with key stakeholder including the Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses and wider private sector to develop a West Lothian Community Wealth Building charter for business	June 2023 – June 2024	Procurement, Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses and Business Gateway to engage with key private sector partners to gather ideas and to develop and Community Wealth Building Business Charter. The charter be part of Economic Development liaison with companies in West Lothian to encourage adoption.	Economic Development Manager, West Lothian Council, to lead
Build on Real Living Wage commitments to incorporate employment and environmental standards into contractual requirements among anchor institutions	June 2023 – June 2024	Review the scope of potential of standard employment and environmental standards, for anchor organisations when commissioning.	Head of Corporate Services. West Lothian Council
Objective 11: Galvanise Active Support of Communities for this Approach			
Identify community ‘organic leaders’ to disseminate messaging and galvanise support. These ‘organic leaders’ may hold no elected position, title or professional roles in community engagement but are well placed within the broader social infrastructure, having the confidence and trust of others in their communities.	June 2023 – December 2023	Engagement with communities through the Regeneration team and other services engaging with the community, to promote the West Lothian approach to Community Wealth Building. Identify members of the community who agree to be “Community Champions” of the ethos of Community Wealth Building and refresh the citizen’s panel. Citizen’s Panel members to help disseminate the Community Wealth Building message.	Community Wealth Building Team

<p>The content of Community Wealth Building messaging should be co-designed, a clear destination must be agreed upon and communicated and framed within a short, medium and long term. This content and destination can be co-developed with the 'organic leaders' who would disseminate the message</p>	<p>End of March 2023</p>	<p>Development of Community Wealth Building approach should be done through engagement with communities and key partner organisations. A number of engagement activities to be designed as part of the development, identifying key themes for communicating as well as identifying key partners to help support implementation.</p>	<p>Community Wealth Building Team</p>
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