

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

SAFER, STRONGER COMMUNITIES – RURAL CABINET MEMBER

CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY HUB INVESTMENT PROPOSAL – EPWORTH

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to gain approval to consult on proposals to create a community hub for the Epworth locality.
- 1.2 The matter is urgent as the consultation is scheduled to take place on 29 July 2021.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The council has completed investment in Scunthorpe, Barton, Brigg and Crowle to create integrated, high quality spaces for communities. These spaces enhance and simplify access to a wide range of information, advice, leisure, health, wellbeing and lifelong learning opportunities, together with encouraging active citizenship. This means people are enabled to do more to achieve and maintain a good sense of wellbeing.
- 2.2 As well as making best use of the council's estate and workforce, the community hubs provide local opportunities for residents to access the services, resources and opportunities they require to live safe, well, prosperous and connected lives. The community offer is designed to improve outcomes for people by:
 - strengthening individual and community health and well-being
 - enhancing resilience and connectivity within the community
 - promoting literate communities
 - promoting community prosperity
 - enabling progression into employment
 - raising aspirations
 - supporting people when they feel vulnerable
 - improving digital access

- 2.3 The approach follows the principles of integration to improve access to a high-quality, place-based, health and wellbeing offer for the whole community.
- 2.4 Epworth is the remaining locality within the community hub programme. The current offer comprises a library, adults wellbeing hub and leisure centre all offering services in separate buildings – although sometimes to the same individuals.
- 2.5 Community access to the council offer would be simplified by bringing the offer together at one location within the Epworth locality. This will create opportunities for better use of land and buildings in the Epworth locality to meet residents needs and support economic growth and renewal. The single point of access will enable an integrated council, community and health offer at a single site, enabling residents with their health and wellbeing.
- 2.6 The council wishes to engage with residents on proposals to create a community hub for Epworth. Planned engagement would make use of digital channels as well as in person events (subject to restrictions) and enable everyone to have a voice.
- 2.7 The proposal for Epworth is to invest in the Leisure Centre site, extending and reorganising space to create an integrated community hub with improved accessibility and functionality. In line with the principle of integration noted at 2.3, the library function would be provided in the new space at the community hub. The existing library site would be transformed to create an integrated and sustainable transport hub. Sports facilities at the South Axholme Academy would be improved. The existing Wellbeing Hub will be repurposed to enable community led activity to deliver improved outcomes for the locality or marketed for commercial use/development and work is ongoing to evidence need in this respect.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The recommendation is to approve the consultation to proceed in line with the approach described.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Approval to proceed with the consultation will engage the public and gather valuable user feedback to inform how the proposed community hubs could best meet the needs of the Epworth catchment communities.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

- 5.1 The cost of running the consultation will be funded from within existing budget allocations.

5.2 The consultation will be managed by the Project Team and supported by the council's Marketing Team.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 The community hub proposals seek to strengthen community resilience by enabling people and by providing timely access to services. The community hub proposals support the Council Plan priority of 'enabling resilient and flourishing communities'.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 There are no adverse impacts of consultation. If proposals are subsequently taken forward, the integrated impact assessment will consider the feedback from consultation.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 No conflicts of interest have been declared.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the consultation for community hub proposals for Epworth, as set out in this paper.

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING SKILLS AND CULTURE

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Date: 01 June 2021

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

N/A