



STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBER/OFFICER REPORT

NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY	Strategic Recovery Board
DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED	21 October 2020

BRIEF REPORT:

The Strategic Recovery Board has met on a monthly basis since the approval of the Council's Covid-19 Recovery Strategy – *Recover, Reset and Renew* (S&R Committee 18 June 2020).

The Strategic Recovery Board was established as part of the approved Governance arrangements to facilitate delivery of the Recovery Strategy. As a reminder for members, the approved governance diagram is attached to this note, describing the key roles and responsibilities of the key individuals and groups involved.

Monthly Highlight Reports, summarising progress and key activities forthcoming period, have been included within the Weekly Update for all members. The same Highlight Reports are also published on 'The Hub' site, for all staff.

A selection of key activities and achievements of each recovery work stream is outlined below:

Economy, Market Towns and Rural Vitality:

- Funding plan agreed to support economic recovery in our market towns, through the national Re-opening the High Streets Safely RHSS) fund. This includes promotional activities (eg Shop Local campaign) as well as practical measures such as signage and temporary road closures.
- Lottery funding of £8.9m announced towards restoration of phase 1b of the Stroudwater Canal.
- Two important bids submitted through the Gloucestershire 'One Public Estate' programme, for 'Zero Carbon Public Estate' and also to support the Brimscombe Port re-development.
- Plans being developed for the Council to play a lead role in the Kickstart scheme, providing work placement opportunities for 18-25 year olds with employers across the district.

Community Resilience and Wellbeing

- Re-shaping the approach to community grants in line with recovery priorities
- Commissioning a review of leisure and wellbeing



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- Supporting the development of Community Hubs – a partnership project to help community response groups develop as a lasting model for community support as we move into recovery

Affordable Housing and Homelessness

- New Council Homes Strategy adopted by Housing Committee 22nd September
- Next Steps Accommodation Programme bid successful. This covers support workers for OpenHouse until March 2021 and the purchase of 4 flats for former rough sleepers
- Successful bid to BEIS for £1m for Local Authority Delivery Green Homes funding for Park Homes.
- Focus on providing Covid compliant emergency winter provision for homeless people

Environment and Climate

- The main focus at present is on the public and stakeholder engagement process for 2030 Strategy. The report is also being considered by all four main committees of the Council. The Strategy is set to come to Full Council in February 2021 for approval, taking account of the consultation feedback.
- Work is set to start over the forthcoming tree planting season, to begin transforming the Council's site at Salmon Springs from a grazed grassland into a rich and diverse woodland habitat. This will be in partnership with the Stroud Valleys Project charity and will provide many opportunities for community and volunteer support.
- A pilot project to retrofit energy efficiency measures within the Council's housing stock is being developed, working with the Gloucestershire Community Energy Co-operative.

With the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown measures and restrictions affecting our residents, communities and businesses, much of the Council's efforts have been appropriately focused on 'response' rather than recovery related activities.

Therefore, a focus for the Strategic Recovery Board will be to review current recovery plans and prioritise rigorously, concentrating on those areas within each of the four identified work streams where progress is considered most important in the short, medium and longer term.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Brendan Cleere – Strategic Director of Place
DATE	2 December 2020