

Chief Exec & Leader Update

Overview & Scrutiny

17

January 2024



Agenda Item 62.

An update on the Challenges

Finance



Financial pressures continue to be felt, inflation is high, income low and all budgets are under pressure

CLT and Executive continue to work together on areas of savings, including taking those difficult decisions when they are needed

Cost of Living



Cost of Living Crisis, rising inflation and growing financial pressure on our communities

Support via the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, including the seed funding of a 'community store' and an 'school uniform' project for education

Partnership



Inconsistency in partnership relationships, leading to missed opportunities for collaboration

Progressing the development of a vision for the borough, alongside continued strengthening of the relationships with our school community, Town and Parish Councils and our VCS partners

Demand



Demand and complexity of need continues to rise, especially in Adults, Childrens and Housing

Cross council working on key areas of need, led through CLT and focused on early intervention and support to manage demand

Reading Uni/Wokingham Borough Council Strategic Partnership



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Climate and environmental sustainability



Art, heritage and culture



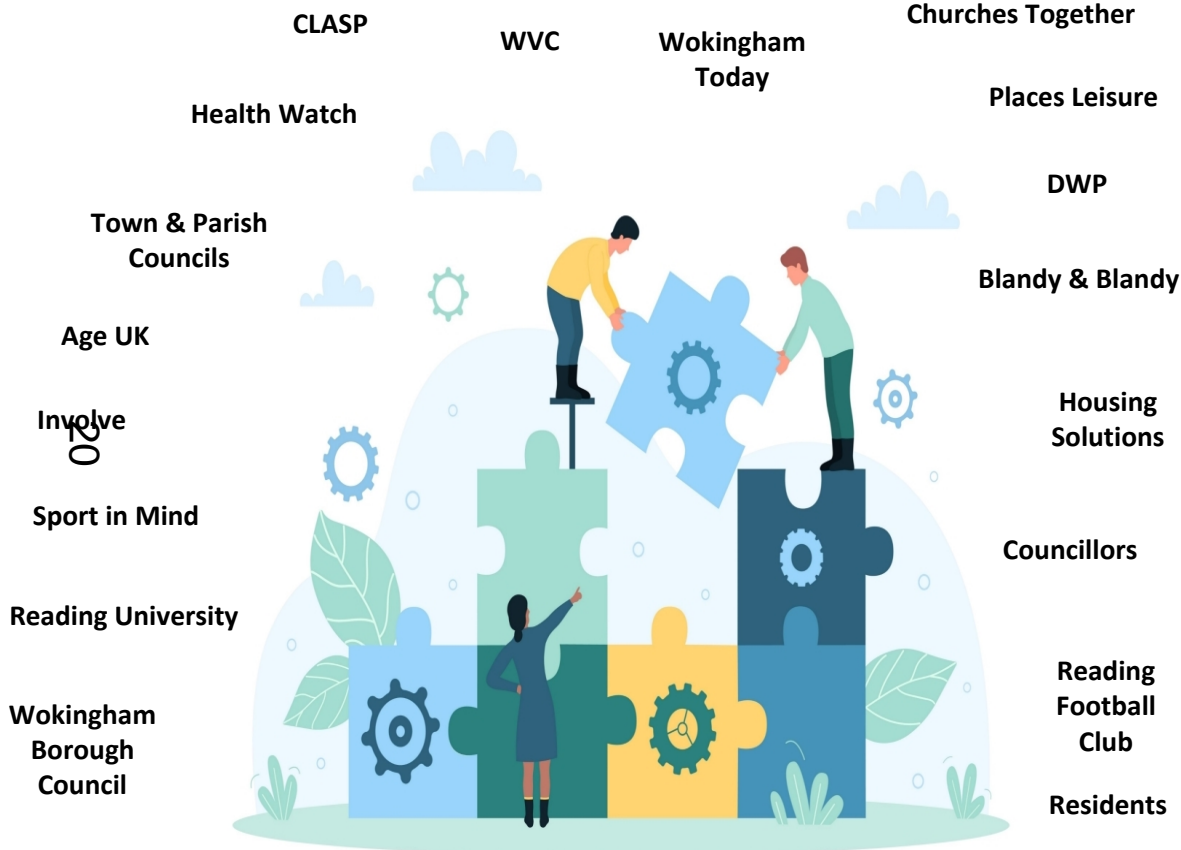
Economic development and growth



Participatory Action Research

A Strategic programme of work across shared areas of community interest and impact. Nominated leads from across the University and the Council, focused on jointly delivering on key themes & outcomes for our community.

Community vision | Shaping the vision together with partners



Partner Steering Group

Partners working together gathering input from the community to shape and co-design strategy.

- All partners are using their existing networks and connections to promote the vision work and gather input – better targeting of seldom heard groups
- Partners acting as Chair and Deputy and providing a monthly place to meet
- Young people involved in designing a Community Vision logo – Youth Council and Reading University
- Partners have used their own communication and engagement channels to promote the online survey
- Digital collaboration area for all partners to use
- Analysing input together to co-design and create the vision - December to February

The Council is a partner at the table, but also acts as convener

Making an impact

Care Home purchased to support vulnerable residents
New Council website launched to support residents access information and advice digitally

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July 23

Free job fair to help local people find work
Oak Tree Special School opened in September 2023 welcoming 54 pupils
Social workers recognised for years of dedication

September 23

First WBC/Reading Uni partnership board held
Winner of the 'Excellence in Community-led Decision Making' category at the Affordable Housing awards
White Ribbon accreditation received

November 23

August 23

£40,000 'Surviving Winter' crowdfund awarded to local VCS groups
New park and ride services launched at Thames Valley Park and Ride

October 23

Free advice to make residents homes more energy efficient
Seed funded a local Community store and school uniform initiatives

December 23


First ever best dressed window competition
Topping out ceremony at Gorse Ride
Children welcomed to new SEND early years centre (Farley Hill)

Community Impact – a case study

You're Funding Your Community

- Launched in October to show the faces and work WBC does in our communities
- Helps residents see the work they fund through council tax
- Goes hand in hand with our Fair Funding Deal campaign
- 14 colleague and partner stories on work being undertaken to help residents
- 22 • Demonstrates how Council services make a huge difference to those who are vulnerable in our community

MEET AGA
PREVENTION TEAM




"I help and support those living in our borough to manage health conditions and reduce the impact and severity of some symptoms."

WOLVERHAMPTON
Matches

YOU'RE FUNDING YOUR COMMUNITY

MEET RACHEL
SPORT AND LEISURE TEAM



"I help borough residents living with decreased mobility, learning disabilities and long-term health conditions become more confident and active through exercise."

WOLVERHAMPTON
Matches

YOU'RE FUNDING YOUR COMMUNITY

MEET JAYNE
THE FRIENDSHIP ALLIANCE



"I work for a local charity, the Link Visiting Scheme, to promote friendship and reduce the impact of loneliness and isolation for older people and my role is funded by Wolverhampton Borough Council."

WOLVERHAMPTON
Matches

YOU'RE FUNDING YOUR COMMUNITY

MEET GINA
ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR TEAM




"My team investigates complaints from residents and helps them resolve the issues they may have."

"Sometimes we're able to resolve by listening with all parties and reaching an agreement or taking enforcement action, including issuing fines where appropriate."

WOLVERHAMPTON
Matches

YOU'RE FUNDING YOUR COMMUNITY

MEET CAROL
THE LINK VISITING SCHEME



"Through the work of our charity, with help and support from the council, we've seen lives transformed, adding thousands of hours of friendship, laughter and fun to people who had felt forgotten."

WOLVERHAMPTON
Matches

YOU'RE FUNDING YOUR COMMUNITY

MEET SHANE
SPORT AND LEISURE TEAM



"My role covers both falls prevention and the moving with confidence programme."

"I work closely with residents in need of extra support to understand what they enjoy doing and what help they need to break down the barriers to allow them to do what they love. This may involve an exercise class, gym session or a home visit."

WOLVERHAMPTON
Matches

YOU'RE FUNDING YOUR COMMUNITY

Next Steps

- Continuing to provide a safe budget position now and in future years for the organisation, whilst protecting the most vulnerable within the Borough
- Moving forward with our Vision for the Borough, through co-production and community engagement
- Work in partnerships with more organisations to drive better outcomes for our borough

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