North Yorkshire County Council
Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee

5th July 2017

Stronger Communities Progress Report

1   Purpose of this report

1.1   To update Yorkshire Coast and Moors Area Committee on the work of the Stronger Communities programme.

2   Introduction

2.1   This report will update the Committee on progress made in the Scarborough District across the priority services in 2016/17 and highlight some of the new strategic programmes being rolled out in 2017/18.

2.2   Stronger Communities was established in October 2014 as part of the Council's 2020 Transformational Change Programme. It aims to support communities to play a greater role in the delivery of services in the county. The Council has developed the programme to support communities to help themselves and create local solutions for services at a time of significant financial challenge for the authority.

2.3   The Stronger Communities team works with local residents, community groups and other partners from the public and private sectors across North Yorkshire, identifying opportunities to co-produce a range of local support and services aimed at: reducing inequalities; improving social connectedness; and improving the well-being of people of all ages. Community groups are encouraged to work together where appropriate, maximising the use of buildings, assets and volunteers in order to create a focal point or local network of support.

2.4   The initial priorities of the programme are:
- Libraries
- Universal services for Children and Young People
- Community transport and
- Some services for older people and adults.

2.5   The Stronger Communities Programme is supported by a staff team of 9 including a dedicated manager for Scarborough District and is funded from Public Health.

3   Annual Report

3.1   In the second year of operation the Stronger Communities programme has continued to build on the foundation work carried out in 2015 and has seen growth in the number and range of communities worked with and the successful delivery of some key strategic priorities. Attached at Annex A are summaries outlining the overall investment across

the county and the numbers and type of projects supported. An annual report will be published in July.

3.2 A total of 34 projects were supported in the Scarborough District with an investment of £296,023. The majority of the projects were for older people and disabled adults with 10 organisations being supported with capacity building, 5 new groups being established and 19 existing organisations being supported to extend services or set up new activities.

4. Library Transition Programme

4.1 The Library Service's ambition, supported by the Stronger Communities team, to implement a new operating model that would see seven core libraries, five hybrids and 30 community libraries has been successfully delivered. County-wide, all but one community library transferred into full community management on 1 April 2017, including in the Scarborough district Newby and Scalby Library and More Than Books in Eastfield. Whitby Area Library Experience (WHALE) and Filey Library Action Group (FLAG) groups are supporting the two hybrid libraries in the area with the provision of volunteers, who carry out the day to day routines as well as support for activities and events. These four libraries will work alongside the existing community library of Derwent Valley Bridge and the core library at Scarborough in providing a network of library delivery across the area.

4.2 This sees the close of this phase of the implementation of the new service model however the Council will continue to build and develop its relationship with the new community libraries over the coming months and years. The Stronger Communities Delivery Manager will continue to support the new organisations with advice and training, helping them to achieve their broader and longer term ambitions for their communities.

5. Stronger Communities Projects

5.1 The larger grants programme has been on hold since 16 December 2016 in order that both a fundamental review of the investment strategy could be undertaken and to release the capacity in the team needed to ensure the successfully transfer of the community libraries. A new investment strategy was agreed at the Stronger Communities Programme Board on 30 January 2017 and will be launched in July. Smaller grants have continued to be available.

5.2 Grants awarded in this reporting period include:
- Derwent Valley Bridge (£3,929): Digital neighbours project
- Whitby Area Library Experience (£1,000): to assist with start-up costs.
- Filey Library Action Group (£1,000): to assist with start-up costs.
- Gristhorpe and Lebberston Village Hall (£910): to assist with set up of Books and Company group

- Over 50s Friendship Centre (£1,670): Monthly nostalgia social event & Bring a Friend outing
- Lythe Community Shop (£14,595): Community café garden

5.3 **Projects in Development**

A number of projects are currently being developed with a range of voluntary & community sector groups across the area, covering all four priorities. Some require a period of development and assistance prior to submission of a formal application for funding. They cover areas such as:

- Organisational development and support for Scarborough and Ryedale Disability Forum.
- Pathways to Health project in the Scarborough area.
- Connecting Communities project in Sleights

6 Strategic Projects

6.1 The Stronger Programme is also currently undertaking a number of county wide strategic projects will benefit the communities of Scarborough District:

- **Community Transport branding and marketing** – the programme commissioned a public transport marketing agency to develop a North Yorkshire community transport brand and promotional film that can be used by all providers in the county. The brand: Go Local: Connecting People and Places and film will be launched in July.

- **Physical Activity Programme for Older Adults** – currently being commissioned on behalf of public health this will provide age and physical ability appropriate activities for adults who are at risk of falls, increasing frailty or loneliness and social isolation.

- **NY Connect** – the new online directory of services, facilities and voluntary sector organisations will go live at the end of June.

- **Review of Prevention Services** – the SCDM for Scarborough District is the programme lead for helping to shape the new Health and Adult Services prevention services contracts.

6.2 **Stronger Communities Investment Prospectus**

The programme's new investment strategy will see the introduction of a new prospectus in July 2017. The prospectus will provide information on three new approaches to Stronger Communities support**:**

i) **Inspire**
Grants up to £1000 for local, community led social action, events and small pilot projects.

ii) **Achieve Together**
This will be the main programme of support and will replace the programme's existing main programme. The approach will be that of co-design and co-production and projects will be evidence or need led, will include mandatory capacity building for VCS partners and is aimed at developing longer term projects capable of delivering at scale.

iii) **Time to Innovate**
Stronger Communities will take over the management of the Innovation Fund which will offer a limited number of awards to projects that seek to find innovative solutions to high priority issues.

6.3   The prospectus will be launched at roadshows across the county. In Scarborough District the two events will be held:

- Tuesday 18 July 2017, 13.00pm to 16.30pm at Sawdon Village Hall , near Scarborough
- Thursday 20 July 2017, 9.00am to 13.00pm at Sneaton Castle, Whitby

7   Recommendation

7.1   It is recommended that the Area Committee notes the contents of this report.

Karen Atkinson
Stronger Communities Delivery Manager
Date   15/06/17

Stronger Communities Programme 2016/17 – Performance Summary

Number of Projects supported by Priority and District

District	Libraries	Children and Youth	Community Transport	Adults and Older People	Strategic	Total
Countywide		1	1	1	1	4
Craven	2	1		12		15
Hambleton	9	6		9	1	25
Harrogate	5	3	1	16		25
Richmondshire	2	3		10	1	16
Ryedale	6	1	1	11	1	20
Scarborough	4	7	1	22		34
Selby		5		15	5	25
Total	**28**	**27**	**4**	**96**	**9**	**164**

Investment in Projects supported by Priority and District

District	Libraries	Children and Youth	Community Transport	Adults and Older People	Strategic	Total (£)
Countywide		30,000	5,000	15,000	7,350	**57,350**
Craven	400	15,000		64,576		**79,976**
Hambleton	14,300	30,850		50,439	4,950	**100,539**
Harrogate	2,600	13,442	11,000	120,608		**147,650**
Richmondshire	1,240	21,156		90,941	15,000	**128,337**
Ryedale	20,100	15,000	1,000	45,063	975	**82,138**
Scarborough	3,200	63,432	15,000	214,391		**296,023**
Selby		116,000		134,071	27,550	**277,621**
Total (£)	**41,840**	**304,880**	**32,000**	**735,089**	**55,825**	**1,169,634**

Type of Project by District

District	New Group	New Activity by Existing Group	Extension of Existing Services	Capacity Building	Other	Total
Countywide		2	1	1		**4**
Craven	4	5		5	1	**15**
Hambleton	5	2	2	9	7	**25**
Harrogate	2	12	1	8	2	**25**
Richmondshire	1	10	2	3		**16**
Ryedale	3	7	3	3	4	**20**
Scarborough	5	16	3	10		**34**
Selby	5	3	8	6	3	**25**
Total	**25**	**57**	**20**	**45**	**17**	**164**

Type of Project by Priority

Priority	New Group	New Activity by Existing Group	Extension of Existing Services	Capacity Building	Other	Total
Libraries	13	1		9	5	28
Adults	8	39	12	27	10	96
Children	4	12	2	7	2	27
C. Transport		2	2			4
Strategic		3	4	2		9
Total	**25**	**57**	**20**	**45**	**17**	**164**