

**HAZEL GROVE DISTRICT CENTRE ACTION PLAN UPDATE**Report of the Deputy Chief Executive**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.0 To provide an update on delivering Hazel Grove District Centre Action Plan including recent successes and priorities for the next 6 months.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Hazel Grove Action Plan reflects local priorities and includes quick wins and longer term actions all of which to help towards creating a strong, healthy and sustainable District Centre. The Plan was discussed at the Stepping Hill Area Committee meeting in March 2023 and the District Centre Manager provided an update on delivery of the Action Plan in June 2023 and in November 2023. This report is to update on delivery since November

**3. HAZEL GROVE DISTRICT CENTRE ACTION PLAN**

- 3.1 Over the winter and spring months various activities and events have been held and good progress made on delivering a number projects within the Action Plan. Below is a summary from the last 6 months:
- ✓ Work continues to create a District Centre event space at the junction of Commercial Road with the A6. Community Payback are programmed in to clear the area of weeds and clear the existing tree base. Arboriculture contractors have removed growth around the tree base with further work planned in late August to remove the ivy from the tree and damaged lighting.
  - ✓ The first Hazel Grove Worker Bee Market is taking place on the 12th October in the United Reform Church car park and on Short Street. Christmas market confirmed for the 7<sup>th</sup> December.
  - ✓ Plans to relocate the Torkington Park Christmas Tree into a more central and prominent location in Hazel Grove District Centre are progressing with survey work taking place on Short Street.
  - ✓ Collaborative work with colleagues in the Neighbourhood Team to support development of the Memorial Gardens gardening mornings with new barrel planters installed.
- 3.2 In addition to delivering the specific actions the District Centre Manager continues to regularly engage with small businesses and retailers in Hazel Grove. They regularly promote business support workshops and remind businesses about the wealth of business advice they can access

from partner organisations such as the Business Growth Hub and Enterprising You. They have also supported businesses and organisations in accessing funding including UKSPF and connecting them to Council colleagues who provide advice on specialist areas including road closures, Temporary Event Notices.

#### **4. FOOTFALL**

- 4.1 The new footfall counting system was installed in April 2023 so we are now able to compare year on year figures to identify trends. In Hazel Grove for the 2 month period May to June footfall increased by 15% compared to the same period last year.

#### **5. BUDGET ALLOCATION**

- 5.1 In 2022/23 each District Centre was allocated £5,000 to assist with delivering projects within their specific Action Plans. Local stakeholders in Hazel Grove were involved in identifying priority projects for the £5,000. In October 2023 £40,000 was allocated via the Communities and Place strand of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), to be split equally between the eight District Centres.

- 5.2 To assist with continuing the successful work that has taken place over the last 18 months a further £40,000 has been allocated from the 2024/25 Communities and Place strand of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), again to be split equally between the eight District Centres. To comply with the requirements of UKSPF the £5,000 per District Centre must be spent by the end of March 2025.

- 5.3 As with all District Centre allocated funding, local stakeholders in Hazel Grove via the Hazel Grove Vision Team will be actively involved in prioritising projects for funding from the second UKSPF allocation (£5,000). A meeting of Hazel Grove Vision Team is being organised which along with considering priority areas for funding, will also help shape a new updated version of the Hazel Grove District Action Plan which will build on recent successes – a verbal update will be provided at the Committee meeting. This collective approach to allocating funding and developing the Action Plan has helped ensure a partnership approach to delivery and has resulted in buy in from a range of local stakeholders.

#### **6. SUPPORT FOR LARGE LOCAL CENTRES**

- 6.1 As mention previously to assist those businesses and organisations based in the large local Centres an online portal is being developed which will have a wealth of useful information to help businesses with accessing business support, running and delivering events including what permissions are required, how to set up steering groups or traders' associations, and details of funding sources.

- 6.2 To ensure the portal is a meaningful resource further work is needed and it is hoped to launch the portal in the Autumn 2024. In the meantime advice and support is being provided where possible to those in Large Local Centres.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Richard Daniels, the District Centre Manager for Hazel Grove continues to develop strong positive relationships with colleagues in the Council, local businesses and community organisations in Hazel Grove. This strong partnership approach has helped to generate ideas for new projects and activities, along with identifying priority actions.

- 7.2 The Committee is requested to:

- a) Note the progress made in delivering projects and events.
- b) Provide feedback on initial ideas for priority projects to allocate the £5,000 UKSPF which will be discussed with Hazel Grove Vision Team