

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Warwick Area Committee

Date of Committee 13th March 2007

Report Title Delivering Health & Wellbeing in Leamington Old Town

Summary The report summarises the background and future plans for the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre and highlights the financial vulnerability of it due to the Big Lottery funding ceasing in March 2007.

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Would the recommendation decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision] No.

Background papers None.

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

- Other Committees
- Local Member(s) Councillor M Singh
- Other Elected Members Councillor Mrs S Boad, Councillor Mrs M Haywood
- Cabinet Member Councillor A Farnell, Councillor C Hayfield
Comment received from Councillor Hayfield – “This has proved a valued and useful facility in delivering our wellbeing agenda, and I believe that, in association with our partners, we should contribute to its future sustainability”
- Chief Executive
- Legal Jane Pollard, Alison Hallworth
- Finance Philip Lumley-Holmes, Financial Services Manager

- Other Chief Officers Graeme Betts, Strategic Director, Adult, Health and Community Services
- District Councils Warwick District Council
- Health Authority Warwickshire Primary Care Trust
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Regenesi Board
Peter Hunter, Warwick Area Officer

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Warwick Area Committee – 13th March 2007

Brunswick Healthy Living Centre – The Future

**Report of the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and
Community Services**

Recommendation

That Warwick Area Committee support the sustainability of the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre as laid out in this report.

1. Background

The Old Town Healthy Living Network (HLN) was based on a hub and spokes model and comprises a Healthy Living Centre (HLC) and externally based health projects/activities around the locality. Geographically, this covers the area south of the Pump Rooms and boundaries of Whitnash, Tachbrook Road and Sydenham Industrial Estate and is made up of approximately 14,000 residents and 450 small businesses.

The vision of the Healthy Living Network is:

“The Health Living Network will encourage and enable the active involvement and ownership of the local community in their health and wellbeing by developing appropriate projects and processes to address inequalities in, and barriers to, health.”

The Brunswick Healthy Living Centre was completed in August 2003, and is built on the former site of a Community Health Clinic and Library. Although situated away from the main shopping area of Old Town, the centre provides a welcome retreat for visitors and residents of the town.

The construction of the centre and the equipment in the building was provided by a combination of funding opportunities including Single Regeneration Budget, New Opportunities Fund (Big Lottery), UK Online, Warwick District Council, with contributions in kind from Warwickshire County Council and South Warwickshire PCT and is intended to specifically meet the needs of the local community.

The Healthy Living Network is part of Regenesis Ltd a registered charity, which carried out a wide range of regeneration projects within Old Town Leamington Spa area, although the funding has now ceased Regenesis continues to manage it's assets which includes the HLC. The Management Board of Regenesis has representation from partnership agencies, local people and Councillors. In

addition the Healthy Living Network has a Steering Group dedicated to ensure the aims and objects of the Healthy Living Network are adhered to, but is currently working to ensure the future sustainability of the building when the Big Lottery funding ceases in April 2007.

The external based health projects commenced some time before the centre was completed and therefore the funding for those projects came to an end shortly after the centre opened. Once the HLC is secure it is intended to once again work closely with external projects and develop more outreach initiatives.

2. The Brunswick Healthy Living Centre

Since opening its doors in 2003 it has developed into a well-used and thriving community building. Currently serving on average 2,000 people a month, it offers a wide range of health and well-being activities. Sharing a third of the building with the PCT it has a unique opportunity to offer not only clinical services but preventative health and well-being measures too. The holistic approach of the centre enables it to engage with all members of the community young and old, those in ill-health and those who just wish to get fitter. Information, advice and opportunities around wellbeing are what Brunswick excels at. Economic health is seen as equally important as physical and mental health.

Services currently offered are: a volunteer programme offering 22 volunteer placements; employment advice and guidance; adult learning; children's physical activities working in partnership with Warwick District Council; Children's University; community library; community café – offering healthy eating; healthy eating workshops; physical activity classes for all ages; CAB outreach service; health promotion; IT classes and drop-ins; emergency dental access centre; chiropody; physiotherapy; phlebotomy services; leg ulcer clinic; health visitors and child health clinics. New services are being developed continuously. The growth in the last year has been phenomenal. Reputation has been earned and rewards of reaching and serving the community are being seen daily. Demand for services has shown that it is a vital community commodity. Community members value the warm, approachable and friendly atmosphere of the centre. They value the volunteer's commitment and time dedicated. Those with learning disabilities and mental health issues are particularly important users of the centre. They have discovered for themselves and through their carers that it is a safe environment to attend.

The large hall and training room are hired out for community activities, events and meetings, which brings in some revenue and it is envisaged that this will cover the cost of the internal projects.

3. Future Proposals for the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre

Warwick District Council has submitted a bid to AWM to develop the Leamington Spa Old Town 'Creative Uplift Provision' Project (Old Town CUP) to provide new opportunities for business start-up enterprise and job creation by increasing workspace provision, as well as creating new facilities from which a range of

employment and business support services can be provided by extending the space by an additional 65 sq m. This will provide an extended reception area and space for a range of business pre-start, start-up and support programmes to be established within the building. This will build on the reputation of Brunswick Healthy Living Centre as a comprehensive information, advice and activity centre specialising in health and wellbeing.

The improved facility will promote access to new job opportunities and careers advice; and through working partnerships with BBC Coventry & Warwickshire, Hybrid Arts and Warwickshire College will provide access to a broad spectrum of skills and business training that meets the requirements of the high technology and creative industries businesses attracted to the area. Brunswick Healthy Living Centre as seen as a key component to these plans and it already has the community involvement and activity to enable full engagement.

This will fit with another proposed development to seek funding for a Volunteer Co-ordinator to develop Brunswick Healthy Living Centre into a centre of excellence for health-focused volunteers. This would enable the volunteer programme to be properly developed and managed and with the AWM bid would enable the development of a progression plan for volunteers, which could lead to employment and/or possible business start up opportunities and support.

Warwickshire Police are also keen to site a local team of community police officers in the centre. Their presence will compliment the joint health focused advice information and activity centre could bring in the whole range of information and support to the local population in partnership with our health colleagues who are already an integral part of the Centre.

These developments would add value to the already thriving Healthy Living Centre and complement the range of activities already underway and planned to continue and develop. However the HLC is always keen to attract new activities and services that will meet the needs of the local population and this is an opportunity to consider whether WCC could make better use of this valuable facility.

4. Governance for the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre

The governance of the project is achieved through a Steering Group, which supports the Manager and steers the project. This group in turn makes recommendations to the Regeneration Board. In practise it is the Steering Group, which influences the delivery and sustainability of the project. To this end we have a wide membership. Although Regeneration, (with Warwick DC underwriting the project), has ultimate responsibility it has always been the vision that in time the Healthy Living Network and Centre would separate from Regeneration and become a independent entity. With additional growth and development of an enterprise arm and a comprehensive volunteer programme it would aim to become a freestanding social enterprise possibly during 2007.

5. Funding the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre

The only issue unresolved from all of the future plans is the ongoing **core** funding to keep the Healthy Living Centre open and active. The costs of the project activity will be met from the income from hire of rooms and by making minimal charges to cover costs of some individual activities/classes.

However, please note that the café costs are excluded for the time being as there is a bid into Reaching Communities for funding to cover the café and healthy eating workshops.

Other bids for funding will continue to be submitted to appropriate pots as opportunities present however the urgent issue is how to cover the core running costs of keeping the building open from April 2007 of £152,000 per annum.

The three main statutory organisations Warwick District Council, the Primary Care Trust and Warwickshire County Council have been asked to contribute through mainstreaming resources equal shares to enable the future sustainability of this valuable resource.

This will amount to **£51,000 per annum** per organisation.

6. Conclusion

It is imperative that the core funding is secured to enable the Brunswick HLC to continue to develop and be a valued resource serving the local community.

If the three statutory organisations fail to find the core funding the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre it will have to close its doors to community activity on or soon after the 31st March 2007 and the Primary Care Trust will either have to find alternative venues for their clinical services or find a way of funding the whole building costs in liaison with Regenesys. If this happens the statutory bodies will need to be prepared for potential community backlash of this valued venue closing after less than 4 years.

GRAEME BETTS
Strategic Director of Adult,
Health & Community Services

Shire Hall
Warwick

February 2007