

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

Subject : Community Strategy and Priorities 2026 to 2029
Committee : Community Services Committee
Date : 09 February 2026
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1. Report Summary:

- 1.1 This report updates members on the development of the Community Strategy and Priorities for 2026 to 2029. The strategy will set out how we work in our communities and the priorities and actions that will help us deliver this work. It will also shape how we collaborate in partnership, how we engage with residents, underpin the work of the SCC Community team and facilitate the alignment of associated resources, e.g. community grants.
- 1.2 Members are requested to note the proposed approach and future direction of travel and endorse these priorities to provide a working operational framework going forward from now to March 2029. Additional partner engagement and sense checking will take place to further refine the strategy and associated action plan, which will be brought back to this committee for adoption in summer 2026.
- 1.3 In line with the endorsement of priorities, further work will take place to update the grants policy and associated processes to align resources to meet current community priorities, provide value for money, demonstrate sound community development practice and ensure the impact of activities is captured.

2. Background

- 2.1 Members were briefed in November on the research, consultation and engagement phases of this work and the emerging themes.
- 2.2 The strategy has been informed through engagement with residents, key stakeholders and members through a series of qualitative and quantitative research methods. The voices of over 600 residents were captured. This has provided strong data and community evidence to shape community priorities that will respond to evidenced needs.

3. Delivery Principles

- 3.1 As we deliver this Strategy, it is essential that residents are actively involved and empowered to play a key role in the development and delivery of this work. Our Community Strategy will involve and empower residents, ensuring that engagement is meaningful, inclusive and consistent, with the approach captured in a framework for community engagement which will set out this approach in more detail. Additionally, clear and accessible communications will be in place making sure communities know what support is available and how to get involved and engaged in shaping activities that are being delivered as part of this strategy.

- 3.2 We will deliver our community strategy through an asset-based community development approach, recognising and building on the strengths, skills and resources that already exist within our communities. Working closely with established partnerships and fostering new groups and opportunities for collaboration will reduce duplication, ensure the effective use of resources and maximise value through community leadership and enable effective collaborative working to respond to the most urgent community needs.
- 3.3 We will seek to maximise external funds coming to the city and encourage take-up of the Council and our partners grants programme, enabling communities to access the support and resources they need to grow local initiatives.
- 3.4 To ensure accountability and continuous improvement, we will implement a structured approach to monitoring and evaluation, measuring outcomes and the impact of the work that takes place.

4. Emerging Vision and Values

4.1 Vision

Communities that are connected, resilient and able to thrive together.

4.2 Values

At the heart of our strategy, these underpinning core values will guide the way we work and what we deliver:

- Improving the quality of life of our residents by responding to evidenced community needs and helping people to help themselves.
- Building community capacity by developing opportunities to support and strengthen skills, experiences and abilities.
- Developing inclusive and harmonious community relationships by increasing accessibility and developing understanding and connections between diverse sectors of our communities.
- Listening, learning and delivering together with meaningful community engagement and our residents and partners at the heart of delivery.
- Transformative and bold, embracing new ideas and innovative approaches that will bring lasting and sustainable positive changes in our communities

5. Priorities

5.1 Reduce Inequality and Strengthen Community Safety and Resilience

- Respond to deprivation challenges (Friary Estate and Bemerton Heath- indicators in the 10% and 20% most deprived).
- Tackle food instability with wrap around support and development pathways to empower people to help themselves.
- Respond to evidenced community safety or cohesion challenges.

5.2 Positive Futures for Children and Young People

- Create skills, development and training employment opportunities for children and young people.
- Provide opportunities for meaningful engagement and advice to keep our young people connected, supported and safe.

- Develop the capacity and skills of youth practitioners and networks to better support young people to navigate challenging times.

5.3 **Vibrant, Connected Communities**

- Create vibrant community spaces where people can access support and connect with each other.
- Build opportunities to increase belonging, identity, cultural awareness and inclusion.
- Strengthen community relationships and participation in community activities and events.

6. **Recommendation:**

- 6.1 Members are requested to note the proposed approach and future direction of travel and endorse these priorities to provide a working operational framework for development and delivery of the Strategy going forward.

Wards Affected: All

Background papers: None

Implications

- **Financial:** None known at this time
- **Legal:** None
- **Personnel:** Delivery subject to managing staffing and partner resource levels as this strategy and action plan develops
- **Environmental Impact:** None
- **Equalities Impact Statement:** The work associated with the community strategy and priorities will deliver beneficial outcomes to address barriers to inclusion and inequalities that exist within the city.