

## Live Well Priority 2: Healthy homes, Places and Communities

### APPENDIX A: Highlight reports from Key Groups

<b>Name of Group:</b>	Healthy Homes Partnership
<b>Name and role of Contact:</b>	Frances Riley – Public Health Specialist Uzmah Hussain – Public Health Trainer Practitioner

<b>Objective(s) aligned to group activity</b>	
Please tell us which objectives from the BwD Health and Wellbeing Strategy ( <a href="#">Priority 2 – page 12</a> ) best align with the work of your group (also see attached slide)	
Establish local Healthy Homes Partnership driving health improvements.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ensure new housing developments create healthy, sustainable and inclusive communities.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver a safe and warm homes programme and supporting people in fuel poverty through the Affordable Warmth Forum	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase awareness of the relationship between home and health across the sector.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ensure safe and warm homes pathways embedded within all services that visit homes.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increase active travel through the BwD Walking and Cycling Plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce accidents through the Safer Roads Strategy action plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve access to healthier and affordable food through the Eat Well Move More Strategy and BwD Food Alliance.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support delivery of the Climate Emergency Action Plan and climate change activities of partner organisations.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure spatial planning policies improve health and wellbeing, air quality and reduce accidents.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure open spaces and green infrastructure support physical activity and positive emotional wellbeing.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Build resilient communities by using a strength based approach to enable residents to identify the services and support they need.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tackle loneliness and isolation across all age groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tackle discrimination and racism.	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Brief overview of group purpose</b>
<p>Healthy Homes Partnership Group was formed in June '23 to oversee the delivery of the new Healthy Homes commissioned service which is delivered by Care Network. The Group is Chaired by Dr Ridwaan Ahmed, GP Health Inequalities lead for BwD. Members of the Partnership support and steer the development of the new service along with raising the profile of the service.</p> <p><b>Aims:</b></p>

To provide a collaborative and multi-agency approach to supporting the implementation and delivery of the BwD Healthy Homes service.

To improve the health and wellbeing of the residents of BwD through supporting the delivery of the Healthy Homes Project.

To raise the profile and increase referrals to the BwD Healthy Homes Service.

### Highlight Report

Please provide a brief summary of key activity of your group over the past 12 months and planned activity/key milestones for the next year. **(300 words max)**

The Healthy Homes Partnership meeting allows Care Network to highlight any areas of success or concern regarding the delivery of the Healthy Homes Contract.

- The Healthy Homes project is meeting all its KPIs, in line with the new Service Specification. It is achieving above target on a number of indicators including number of onward referrals and signposts, number of referrals received, and number of customers supported.
- Care Network have created new Healthy Homes branding for the project, to reflect the new service specification. The new branding is being promoted at events, and through partner organisations.
- Following the Damp, Mould, and Condensation Training for frontline staff in March '23, Care Network have created a training video for staff to access at a time that is convenient to them.
- Additional money from Public Health has supported Care Network to additionally offer a Child Safety Awareness pack, which includes the fitting of 2, free Child Safety Gates into the homes of vulnerable families. This allows the team to access the property to conduct a healthy homes assessment, checking if the family is eligible for any housing grants and referring /signposting them to any additional family support required.
- Care Network together with ChiL, Credit Union, Age UK, Food Alliance, and Shelter raised awareness of the impact of Fuel Poverty and the various support services that are available to the public at events at Blackburn and Darwen Markets.
- One of the recommendations from the Partnership for 24/25, is to increase the referrals and raise awareness of the project and the services available, with the South Asian Community. Care Network are to arrange a meeting with Lancashire Council of Mosques to explore this.
- Care Network are looking into creating a Healthy Homes Network group, where the members can receive updates on the project.

<b>Name of Group:</b>	Affordable Warmth Forum (AWF)
<b>Name and role of Contact:</b>	Dilwara Ali-Chief Exec Healthy Living Uzmah Hussain-Public Health Trainee Practitioner Richard Walsh- Public Health Development Manager

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Tackle loneliness and isolation across all age groups.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tackle discrimination and racism.	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Brief overview of group purpose</b>
Increase awareness of Fuel poverty/debt in the borough with partners. Review outcomes of projects and consider implications for work on fuel poverty delivered by all partners. Support ongoing partnership work to make the projects as effective as possible with routes for referrals and for sharing learning from the project to make it sustainable in the long term.

### Highlight Report

Please provide a brief summary of key activity of your group over the past 12 months and planned activity/key milestones for the next year. **(300 words max)**

- To address fuel poverty collectively by engaging with partner organisation and sharing best practice and providing updates from NEA/Ofgem updates, including industry and policy. Coinciding with the Chancellors budget.
- Raising awareness of the fuel poverty toolkit.
- The AWF has been used as a platform for agency and partner updates for new projects/training and other services available. Referrals has been a key element amongst partners.
- Going forward, AWF wishes to develop the relationship between LCC and the ICBs ongoing AWF strategy development. AWF, Care Network, Food Alliance and Credit Union are working with the Home Energy officer to bid for the Energy Redress Fund. This will hopefully build in the sustainability after the current AWF funding and Household Support Funds.
- AWF to strengthen key themes such as damp and mould, energy efficiency, fuel poverty with Care Network and partners.
- More input will be built in for partners to steer sessions as part of the reconstruction of this group.

<b>Name of Group:</b>	Climate Emergency Working Group
<b>Name and role of Contact:</b>	Gwen Kinloch, Environment & Sustainability Manager

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<b>Brief overview of group purpose</b>
The purpose of the Climate Emergency Working Group is to develop and implement the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan

### Highlight Report

Please provide a brief summary of key activity of your group over the past 12 months and planned activity/key milestones for the next year. **(300 words max)**

#### Achieved 2023/24

933 trees planted  
Tree & Woodland Strategy prepared  
11 EVs introduced to the fleet  
Options to increase solar installations drawn up  
Land holdings assessed for solar farm viability  
'A' grade achieved on climate action  
Local Plan 2021-37 adopted  
One Degree Challenge  
Climate Community established

#### Priorities for 2024/25

Techno-economic feasibility of heat networks in Blackburn and Darwen town centres  
Tree planting  
Restoration of Aushaw Moss  
Implementation of natural flood management interventions  
Completion of Adaptation Strategy  
Roll-out of e-learning module on adaptation for staff  
Bite size training for staff and members  
Implementation of study findings to increase solar generation for BwD  
Environment plan for Darwen  
Plan for housing retrofit  
Roll-out of climate in policy and decisions toolkit  
EV charge point trials

Please note, the priorities for 2024/25 are *draft*. They will be approved by the Working Group before being presented in the Climate Emergency Action Plan for the coming year to Exec Board.

<b>Name of Group:</b>	Eat Well Move More Strategic Group
<b>Name and role of Contact:</b>	Charlotte Pickles, Public Health Specialist

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<b>Brief overview of group purpose</b>
<p><b>The function of the Eat Well Move More (EWMM) Strategic Steering Group is:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To raise the profile of the EWMM strategy with decision makers across the Council, Health and Social Care and across the voluntary, community and faith sectors.</li> <li>2. To provide strategic direction, oversight and governance to the operational groups leading on the key deliverables of the EWMM strategy.</li> <li>3. To ensure the EWMM guiding principles are aligned to local and national policies and that they are a core component of Primary Care Neighbourhoods and Place-Based Partnership priorities as they emerge.</li> <li>4. To ensure an equitable approach to delivering the strategy is maintained and that the needs and views of communities are central to development and delivery plans.</li> </ol>

5. To link to activity across the three life stages of the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy, to include Start Well, Live Well and Age Well.

### Highlight Report

Please provide a brief summary of key activity of your group over the past 12 months and planned activity/key milestones for the next year. **(300 words max)**

**1) Increase active travel through the BwD Walking and Cycling Plan.**

- Active Travel is Theme 3 of the Eat Well Move More Strategic Action Plan with oversight from the Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Operational Group.
- The current Walking and Cycling Plan is under review with a refresh due this year.

**2) Improve access to healthier and affordable food through the Eat Well Move More Strategy and BwD Food Alliance.**

- Food Environment is Theme 5 of the Eat Well Move More Strategic Action Plan, led by the BwD Food Alliance.
- Sustainable Food Places Bronze award was achieved in November 2023; this highlighted our commitment to becoming a place where food could be inclusive, celebrated and sustainable. Our commitment to partnership working was heralded as good practice.
- The BwD Food Alliance which supported the application for the SPF award, has developed a number of networks, one of which is the Food Equity network which brings together organisations, individuals and charities who provide food and/or contribute to food equity across the borough.
- The Food Equity network is supporting the development and growth of a new 'Food Club' for BwD. This is currently funded by the Household Support Fund with plans in place for its continuation. Food Club is strength-based food support for those stepping down from food crisis support but for whom heavily subsidised food parcels are necessary. Equally, Food Club is for those who have been accessing food through various larders and community fridges but for whom regular affordable food parcels would be welcomed. Food parcels contain standardised staple fresh produce on a weekly basis.

**3) Ensure open spaces and green infrastructure support physical activity and positive emotional wellbeing.**

- The newly adopted Local Plan sets out plans to ensure that green spaces and infrastructure are considered in all planning and development applications going forwards.
- The council's Wellbeing Service and Re:refresh offers ensure that physical activity opportunities also support emotional wellbeing with many opportunities for residents of BwD to partake in activities outdoors.
- Targeted Physical Activity provision has enabled many more activities to take place outdoors including guided walking and outdoor gyms.
- Witton Park is undergoing substantial re-development to ensure that more people are able to utilise the available space, including the new Go Ape adventure trails, new playground facilities and cycling and running tracks.

<b>Name of Group:</b>	Walking Cycling and Wheeling Group
<b>Name and role of Contact:</b>	Darren Tweed, Strategic Planning and Transport Manager

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<b>Brief overview of group purpose</b>
The purpose of the group is to provide a strategic approach to the planning, development and delivery of safe walking, cycling and wheeling routes, and to improve the health and wellbeing of residents through the promotion of active travel in BwD.

### Highlight Report

Please provide a brief summary of key activity of your group over the past 12 months and planned activity/key milestones for the next year. **(300 words max)**

#### Achieved 2023/24

- Completion and adoption of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the Borough
- Feasibility work and pre-liminary design on a new south-east Blackburn active travel network, and a number of routes in Darwen (Destination Darwen funded through Darwen Town Deal)
- Funding secured through Active Travel Fund 4 (ATF4) for development work on a number of schemes improving walking, cycling and wheeling accessibility to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal
- Increase in Capability rating from Active Travel England from a Level 1 to a Level 2 Local Transport Authority attracting higher levels of revenue funding for the development of walking, cycling and wheeling
- Redevelopment of the Cycle Centre in Witton Park into an Active Outdoors Hub

#### Priorities for 2024/25

- Complete the design work of walking, cycling and wheeling infrastructure improvements being funded in SE Blackburn (LUF) and Leeds and Liverpool Canal accessibility schemes (ATF4). Delivery of schemes expected onsite through 2024/25 and 2025/26;
- Progress feasibility studies on some of the other high priority walking, cycling and wheeling routes identified in the adopted LCWIP ready for funding applications that become available;
- Undertake School Route Audits on a first tranche of schools and promote wider uptake;
- Expand behavioural change programme of work (subject to funding restrictions)
- Report progress on, and update, the Council's Walking and Cycling Plan (2021-24)
- Input into the new Local Transport Plan (LTP4) to ensure that active travel is prioritised

<b>Name of Group:</b>	Strategic Planning Team
<b>Name and role of Contact:</b>	Laura Ainscow-Gorst; Principal Strategic Planner

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<b>Brief overview of group purpose</b>
The Strategic Planning Team are responsible for preparing and reviewing a wide range of strategic planning documents, including the Blackburn with Darwen Local Plan (adopted January 2024), which are used in the long-term planning of the Borough and in the determination of planning applications.

### Highlight Report

Please provide a brief summary of key activity of your group over the past 12 months and planned activity/key milestones for the next year. **(300 words max)**

#### Achieved 2023/24

**Adoption of the Blackburn with Darwen Local Plan 2021-37** which will help to meet a number of the objectives set out in the BwD Health and Wellbeing Strategy, including:

- **CP3: Health and Well-being** – includes the adoption of Active Design and active travel principles and exploring community food growing opportunities;
- **CP5: Climate Change** – seeks to ensure design of new development contributes to the Council's carbon neutral ambitions;
- **CP8: Securing High Quality and Inclusive Design** – helps to ensure homes are healthy, sustainable and inclusive;
- **CP9: Transport and Accessibility** – steers new development to the most sustainable locations to minimise the need to travel by car and is easily accessed by non-car means;
- **DM2: Protecting Living and Working Environments** – includes requirement for development to have a neutral or positive impact on air quality;
- **DM3: Housing Mix, Standards and Density** – widens the choice of homes available;
- **DM16: Green and Blue Infrastructure** – requires all development to make a positive contribution to the borough's green and blue infrastructure network;
- **DM18: Public Open Space in New Developments** – sets out the approach to enhancing and extending the borough's green infrastructure;
- **DM27: Design in New Developments** – sets out the design requirements of all new developments in the borough, including Active Design Guidance and Building for a Healthy Life principles;
- **DM29: Transport and Accessibility** – encourages access on foot and by bicycle with reference to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

#### **Adoption of the Climate Impacts Framework Supplementary Planning Document**

##### Priorities for 2024/25

- Preparation and adoption of a Housing Strategy for the borough
- Preparation of Sustainable Transport and Movement SPD
- Preparation of Planning for Health SPD
- Preparation and adoption of Borough Design Code
- Preparation of a masterplan for the North East Blackburn strategic housing site

<b>Name of Group:</b>	Blackburn with Darwen Road Safety Group
<b>Name and role of Contact:</b>	Hannah Dean, Public Health Development Manager

<b>Objective(s) aligned to group activity</b>	
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<b>Brief overview of group purpose</b>
The BwD Road Safety group comprises of individuals across council departments, Lancashire Constabulary, NWAS and Lancashire Fire and Rescue. The group reviews the Safer Roads action plan and has a strategic function in developing this.

### Highlight Report

Please provide a brief summary of key activity of your group over the past 12 months and planned activity/key milestones for the next year. **(300 words max)**

At the last road safety away day in March 2024, the group discussed the data analysis that had been completed for all the wards in BwD. Five wards have been identified as initial targets for interventions due to their higher collision and accident numbers. These wards are Blackburn Central, Audley, Blackburn South East, Little Harwood & Whitebirk and West Pennine. Each of these areas will have a targeted action plan developed in the next quarter. All wards will receive an action plan, and these will be reviewed by the group.

A list of engineering projects that had been completed was shared and this highlighted the success of utilising the data to identify problems on our roads and altering the layout to make these safer for our residents. Key projects that have been undertaken are on Long Hey Lane, School Lane, A666, Rivington Road and Audley Range.

#### Upcoming Events

- Child Safety Week- to cover car seat safety in June
- Road Safety Week- November

<b>Name of Group:</b>	EDI Network
<b>Name and role of Contact:</b>	Nathan Richards, Policy Officer

<b>Objective(s) aligned to group activity</b>	
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<b>Brief overview of group purpose</b>
The EDI Network has two focuses, Workforce and Service Users. The aim of these is to improve equality, diversity and inclusion for all those within the Borough and BwDBC's workforce.

### Highlight Report

Please provide a brief summary of key activity of your group over the past 12 months and planned activity/key milestones for the next year. **(300 words max)**

#### **Workforce**

The EDI Workforce Forum is currently completing the EDI Workforce Action Plan, November 2023-March 2025. The group has already completed a number of activities to tackle discrimination, including:

- Making EDI training mandatory for all employees.
- Launching the Count Me In Campaign to improve personal data disclosure, which has improved understanding of our workforce.
- Enhancing the [Equality Watch Report](#), a publicly available document that details the breakdown of our workforce and the Workforce EDI activities that are being undertaken.
- Receiving and monitoring EDI pledges from extended leadership.
- Launching Employee Inclusion Networks.

Going forward, the EDI Workforce Forum has a number of activities planned, including:

- Conducting equality analysis of reward and recognition initiatives.
- Reviewing BwDBC's EDI training offer.
- Reviewing BwDBC's recruitment processes.
- Completing the necessary actions to attain relevant EDI Charters.

#### **Residents and Service Users**

The following actions have been taken to improve EDI for BwDBC's residents and service users:

- A new cohort of Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Champions have been trained, with each Department being represented. These colleagues are responsible for ensuring all Council decisions have considered the equality impact of their implementation.
- An annual [Service User Data report](#) has been published. This document provides an overview of those who use our Services, and details how the Council uses this data to improve accessibility.

Going forward, BwDBC will continue to review the EIA process to ensure its robustness. Services will continue to collate EDI data. Furthermore, actions undertaken to ensure accessibility and diversity of residents who use our services will be published on an annual basis.