

Report title	Community Services Service Area Plan Update – Quarter 3 2023/24
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Department	Community Services
Exempt?	No
Exemption type	Not applicable
Reasons for exemption	Not applicable

Purpose of report:
For information

Synopsis of report:
This report provides an overview of progress against the agreed objectives within the 2023/2024 Community Services, Service Area Plan, as of the end of Quarter 3 (Oct – Dec 2023).

1. Context and background of report

1.1 In January 2023, Community Services Committee approved the Service Area Plan, to be delivered by the Community Services Business Unit, in 2023/24.

2. Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended

2.1 Appendix ‘A’ provides a summary of all work priorities within the service area plan and the progress made by the end of December 2023.

2.2 All objectives are either underway or complete.

2.3 Quarter 3 has seen the completion of some objectives within the service area plan, including the implementation of the new Armed Forces Covenant, moving the Safeguarding Policy into new business as usual and achieving full GDPR compliance to work with Surrey Heartlands and Alliance partners.

2.5 14 Objectives remain ‘in progress’. Set out below is an update on each of these objectives:

Barrsbrook Farm Feasibility: this objective is being led by the Assets & Regeneration team working in partnership with Community Services to support any potential community use. Work is ongoing with a target due date of March 2026.

Better Care Fund demonstrator wet room: procurement of a contractor to install a demonstrator wet-room for community use/benefit in Manor Farm Day Centre has been launched. This objective will rollover into 2024/25 financial year.

Chertsey Museum Digitalisation: discussions with the RBC in-house website team about bringing the website in house and, in doing so, make the savings required to upgrade the online database software and embed this into the new website. This objective will rollover into 2024/25 financial year.

Citizen's Panel: the objective has been delegated to Community Services during Q3 and has been included in the FY2024/25 Service Area Plan. Officers are working with the Economic Development Team to secure further funding to progress this meaningfully and sustainably.

Community Safety Strategy: work is ongoing to determine the appropriate structure for this piece of work. This objective will rollover into 2024/25 financial year.

Digitalisation of telecare services: this objective, linked to the BT digital switchover, is ongoing. This objective will rollover into 2024/25 financial year.

Egham Hythe Centre Community Hub – Viability: work is ongoing to determine the options available to Members for the most effective and efficient use of this site. Once agreed, this objective will move to the implementation phase. This objective will rollover into 2024/25 financial year.

Heathervale All-wheeled facility: a contractor has been appointed for this piece of work and is awaiting planning permission approval to go ahead with the works. This objective will rollover into 2024/25 financial year.

Play Space Improvement Programme: this objective is to improve specific elements of the play spaces, and is distinct from the full replacement programme; it will be completed by summer 2024. This objective will rollover into 2024/25 financial year.

RPG Improvements: a report for RPG play space improvements has been submitted to trustees in March 2024 for consideration and approval. This is following previous approval (September 2023) to proceed with the first phase of works to improve facilities. Once approved, Officers will progress work. This objective will rollover into 2024/25 financial year.

Runnymede Health & Wellbeing Partnership: this is due to be launched in March 2024 and will therefore be complete.

Safer Runnymede Development: this is an ongoing piece of work which will align with the review of the service and considerations for future development. This objective will rollover into 2024/25 financial year.

Voluntary Sector Grant Funding Review: progress has been made on ensuring a full and transparent grant approval process. Officers have worked on developing the policy. This is being reviewed in light of the recent Best Value Notice received by the Council.

3. Policy framework implications

3.1 The Community Services Service Area Plan contains objectives that all meet the corporate strategy. The work of Community Services generally fits the themes of Empowering Communities and Health and Wellbeing, and objectives within the plan align to priorities within each of these strategies.

4 Resource implications/Value for Money

4.1 Not applicable.

5. Legal implications

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Equality implications

6.1 Not applicable.

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk Implications

8.1 Not applicable.

9. Other implications

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Background papers

None stated.

11. Appendices

Appendix 'A' Service Plan Summary Document