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# Refreshed West Berkshire Vision 2036

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<b>Report being considered by:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>On:</b>	23 February 2023
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<b>Report Sponsor:</b>	Councillor Graham Bridgman
<b>Item for:</b>	Decision

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## 1. Purpose of the Report

To introduce the Refreshed West Berkshire 2036 Vision document to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board agrees to adopt the Refreshed West Berkshire Vision 2036 document which considered the key social, economic and environmental changes since the original Vision was adopted.
- 2.2 That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the progress made towards the aspirations and commitment.

## 3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is invited to endorse the Refreshed West Berkshire Vision 2036. If it does so, it will be best placed to oversee the progress towards the aspirations it contains on a regular basis and to contribute towards better outcomes for West Berkshire residents and businesses across a number of policy areas.
- 3.2 As the Vision document is relevant for everyone living and working in West Berkshire and it is not owned by a single organisation, by the fact that the Health and Wellbeing Board is endorsing the refreshed version of the Vision ensures that partner organisation and other stakeholders are prompted to align their individual policies, strategies and plans to ensure the delivery of the aspirations for people in West Berkshire.

## 4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 In January 2019, West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board has agreed to adopt the West Berkshire Vision 2036, developed based on an extensive review of the statistical evidence base, widespread input from a wider variety of age groups, backgrounds and service areas, including Health and Wellbeing Board members and public consultation.
- 4.2 Over the last four years there have been significant world-wide, regional and national events which had impact here in West Berkshire too, including the Covid-19 pandemic, council's declaring climate emergencies, the UK's exit from the EU, the conflict in Ukraine and economic challenges.

- 4.3 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board have suggested that a refresh of the Vision 2036 document is conducted to check if the aspirations and commitments set four years ago are still relevant and to capture any feedback from partner organisations about progress towards achieving the aspirations.
- 4.4 The Refreshed West Berkshire Vision 2036 document is appended to this report (see Appendix B). The vast majority of the commitments set when the Vision was first adopted in 2019 remain relevant and some of them, such as ensuring the right skills for young people to remain economically competitive, ensuring best opportunities for social mobility, facilitating people from older generations to remain in the workplace, supporting businesses and ensuring West Berkshire is a top destination for companies setting up in UK, empowering individuals and communities to take greater responsibility for their health and support those who need it etc. are even more relevant.
- 4.5 In refreshing the Vision 2036, we took stock of the progress made towards its commitments and listed them as part of the commentary in the refreshed document. Such progress include:
- (1) Aspiration: A West Berkshire where everybody has what they need to fulfil their potential:
    - Stronger links within the community and between partners following our experiences during the pandemic; better engagement with residents
    - The new University Centre at Newbury College supports skills development in the district
    - Crime prevention activities maintain low crime rate for the district
  - (2) Aspiration: A West Berkshire with a housing mix with something for everyone
    - Better understanding of the housing need from a new West Berkshire Council Housing Strategy, work on Local Plan, Census 2021
    - Choice Based Lettings went live in West Berkshire in 2020
    - Joint working to carry out the necessary adaptations where needed for people leaving hospital
    - Achieved zero rough sleeping in the district
  - (3) Aspiration: A West Berkshire that welcomes business, enterprise and industry into a productive, growing and dynamic local economy
    - Sustainable transport improvements (Newbury and Theale station redevelopments, railway electrification, walking and cycling infrastructure, electric cycles and cargo-bikes, reduced-carbon staff travel and car-sharing etc.)
    - Policies within the new Local Plan facilitating focus on high quality, sustainable builds in which companies are proud to do business

- Facilitated the creativity potential of local entrepreneurs through initiatives such as the distributing the Additional Restrictions Grant Challenge Fund or supporting the Berkshire Film Office
  - Completion of the West Berkshire Superfast Broadband project
  - Kickstart programme that provided 18-24 year olds with 6 month work placements
  - Partnership working to maximise employer engagement to identify and address skills needs across the district
  - Start a meaningful conversation about how we can develop, the district, in a sensitive, landscape-led way to meet demand, through the work on the Local Plan
  - Responding to the climate challenge in a coordinated way through the district's Environment Strategy
- (4) Aspiration: A West Berkshire where the health and wellbeing of residents of all ages and backgrounds is good
- Projects and initiatives to support individuals and communities to get active and to support the best start in life for every child
  - Adoption of the Prevention Concordat and practical activities and support for Better Mental Health
  - Adopted a zero tolerance to suicide and providing training and support to individuals to recognise the signs which could lead to suicide and how to respond to support people
  - Health impacts are considered in all policy making decisions
- (5) Aspiration: A West Berkshire with beautiful, historic and diverse landscapes and a strong cultural offering
- Established a Natural Solutions Delivery Partnership to help protect and enhance our countryside addressing biodiversity and climate issues
  - Launched the UK's first Community Municipal Investment (CMI) for residents to invest in environmental project to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030
  - The new A4 Thatcham Intelligent Transport Journey Time Measurement System helps prevent traffic congestion
  - Worked with the Environment Agency and Canal and Rivers Trust on key waterways projects
  - Masterplanning activities initiated to boost the appeal of our centres and secure their future

4.6 The methodology used to produce the refreshed document included:

- (1) A review of the key social, economic and environmental indicators for West Berkshire
- (2) Consultation with partner organisations of the Health and Wellbeing Board regarding progress towards the aspirations and commitments of the Vision 2036 document and assessment of their relevance
- (3) Review of the residents' feedback to the Covid-19 residents survey and to the representative Residents Survey 2021
- (4) Further targeted engagement with 'seldom heard' residents through interviews and focus groups
- (5) Involvement of the partner organisations of the Health and Wellbeing Board in considering a draft version of the refreshed Vision 2036 which resulted in further amendments of the document

## 5. Options Considered

Endorsing the West Berkshire 2036 Vision.

## 6. Proposal(s)

- 6.1 That the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board endorses the Refreshed West Berkshire 2036 Vision.
- 6.2 That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the progress made towards the aspirations and commitments of the Vision 2036.

## 7. Conclusion(s)

- 7.1 The Refreshed West Berkshire Vision 2036 document ensures that the significant social, economic and environmental developments of the last four years have been considered in checking the relevance of the aspirations and commitments set in 2019.
- 7.2 The document re-affirms the commitments which remain important for the district's residents.
- 7.3 The West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board is invited to endorse the Refreshed Vision 2036 and note the progress towards its aspirations and commitments.

## 8. Consultation and Engagement

- 8.1 In producing the Refreshed West Berkshire Vision 2036 document extensive engagement has been conducted with residents through two residents surveys followed by targeted consultation and engagement activities with 'seldom heard' residents through interviews and focus groups.
- 8.2 The organisations of the Health and Wellbeing Board have been involved in providing updates against the originally set aspirations and commitments, comment

on the relevance of the commitments and suggest amendments (if required), provide feedback and suggest amendments to the draft Vision 2036 Document.

- 8.3 The Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Leader of West Berkshire Council, the Chief Executive of the West Berkshire Council and members of the Health and Wellbeing Board Steering Group have overseen the work to produce the Refreshed West Berkshire Vision 2036.

## 9. Appendices

Appendix A – West Berkshire Vision 2036 Refreshed 2023

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### Background Papers:

West Berkshire Vision 2036

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### Health and Wellbeing Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- Help families and young children in early years
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

The proposals contained in this report will support the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities by setting up the long term vision, aspirations and commitments.

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