

# Big Local Oldham Plan

1 April 2021 to 31 March 2024



# BigLocal

Working together for a better future

Littlemoor Greenacres Clarksfield



## **Contents**

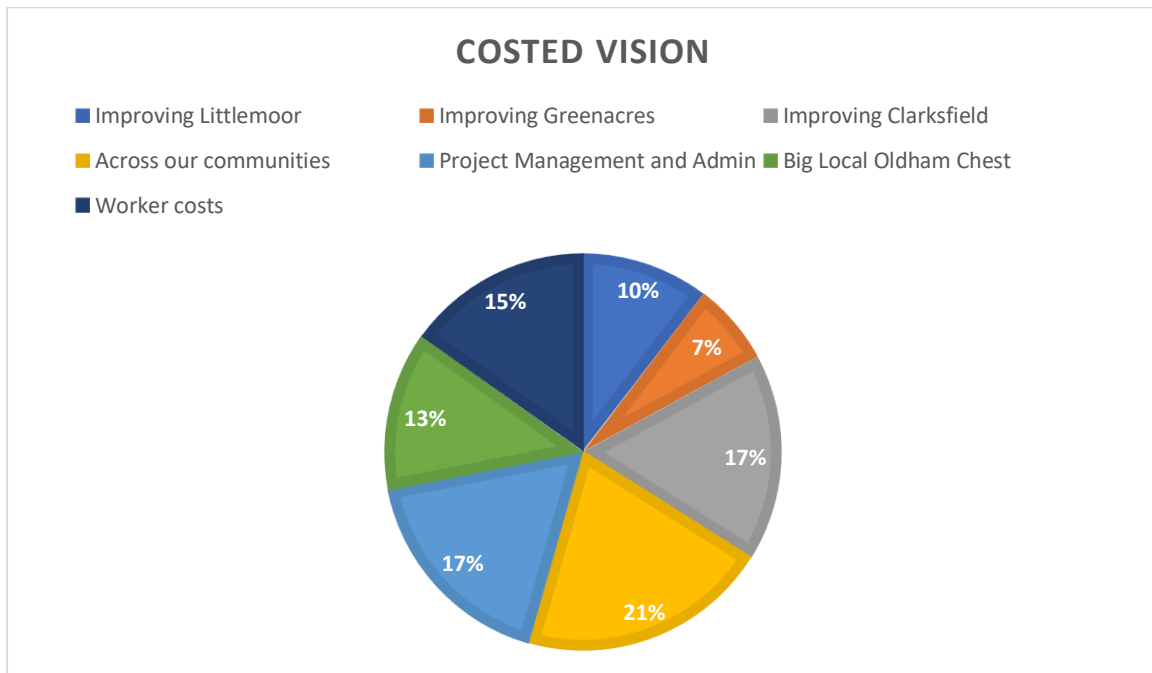
Section 1: Costed Vision

Section 2: Big Local Oldham Action Plan

Section 3: Legacy Statement

## Section 1: The Costed Vision

Our vision is to make Clarksfield, Littlemoor and Greenacres a better place to live and enable positive change



Spending priorities identified by the Big Local Oldham Partnership Board (the Board) from resident feedback collected via an online survey and face to face engagement with groups include:

- Alleyway improvements in Clarksfield
- Investment in parks in Clarksfield, Greenacres and Littlemoor
- Activities for young people, with a focus on secondary school age
- Activities for older and socially isolated residents
- More community engagement activities
- Addressing issues of fly tipping and street cleaning
- Providing advice services - to address concerns around rent and housing, benefits, unemployment and financial support
- Food support
- Investment and infrastructure support for groups and individuals
- Access to fitness and exercise
- Covid Recovery Fund for groups and individuals
- Working with partners to develop shared spaces, such as Clarksfield Academy

The following specific future projects were also highlighted:

- Goal end - Arundel Street Park
- Equipment hire - Veg in the Park / resident ambassadors
- Training opportunities for the community - FA Coaching

- Young people’s partnership
- Walking groups
- Bereavement support group (Veg in the Park)
- Online access - IT device lending project

## Section 2: Big Local Oldham Action Plan

### When will the plan start and end?

Building upon the achievements of our previous plan, this plan will start on 1 February 2021 and end on 31 January 2024. It has been created by the Board in consultation with residents and partners across the three Big Local Oldham (BLO) areas - Clarksfield, Littlemoor and Greenacres

### About our Partnership

A few words from the Chair of the Board:

*“As Chair of Oldham Big Local it is important that we hear what our residents want from Oldham Big Local, and what matters to them, matters to us. I firmly believe we have listened to what they have said and that Oldham Big Local’s next plan 2021-2024 is all about what residents say they want to improve the area.*

*As we get more and more into delivery, we are giving thought to leaving a legacy for the area that will last beyond the ten years!”*

*Naeem Iqbal, Oldham Big Local Chair*

### Who is the Board?

The Board is made up of 6 residents from across the three BLO areas. There are currently 3 resident vacancies. We are working with residents to fill these positions and have interest from 3 residents from the Clarksfield and Littlemoor areas. In addition there is representation from Oasis Hub Oldham, a ward councillor, Oldham Council District Team and NEON Community Hub.

The Board currently comprises:

Name	Role/representing
Naeem Iqbal	Chair/Clarksfield rep
Amjid Mohammed	Deputy Chair/ Clarksfield rep
Wayne Needham	Clarksfield rep
Janet Thorpe	Greenacres rep
Keith Taylor- Bradley	Greenacres rep
VACANT	Greenacres rep
Dave Wilkinson	Neon Rep
Caroline Lawson	Littlemoor rep
VACANT	Littlemoor rep
VACANT	Littlemoor Rep

Peter Dean	Ward councillor
Simon Shuttleworth / Zubair Seedat	OMBC District Rep
VACANT	Greenacres Community Centre rep
Matthew Harris	Oasis Hub Oldham

## What principles and criteria guide our work?

Our vision for Clarksfield, Littlemoor and Greenacres continues to develop from the Vision and Priorities set out in Appendix 1. In this plan we intend to build on our achievements so far. Highlights of our successes include:

### Public Space Development

- Arundel Street Park Regeneration - this area is well used by the local community and has been an outdoor asset, used for events, activities and particularly important during the coronavirus pandemic.
- Started work on development Beresford Street park, making it a safer space to walk and play
- Continuing to support Veg in the Park to create a successful community growing hub



### Activities across the areas

- Regular programme of activities and groups taking place across the areas
  - Activities becoming more sustainable; Friday Brunch (NEON Hub is now volunteer led)
  - Groups that were supported by Oldham Big Local funding continue to run: Knit and Chat, Boxing Club, Football Training





**Regeneration Projects** Alleyways across Clarksfield; well used and really important safe spaces for families. We have had lots of feedback from residents who have ideas for their alleyways.

- Veg in the Park complete new cabin installation complete - partially supported by BLO. Used for activities, events, members and other groups including the Incredible Plastic Street Band.

### Covid 19 Pandemic Response

- Supported Oldham Foodbank throughout the initial lockdown period
- Created online engagement opportunities through a weekly zoom catch up
- Shared vital information through social media and engagement visits
- Distributed family wellbeing packs during the summer and Christmas holidays
- Created online activities including an engagement survey and competition for young people
- Provided masks and hand sanitiser supplies to groups and individuals



### Positive Partnerships

- Worked closely with local schools
- Provided funding to local groups as part of our Treasure Chest grants supporting, a new creative English project, a football training group and a digital skills enterprise
  - Worked with Oldham libraries to support residents to get online
  - Worked closely with Oldham Foodbank
  - Involved in wider projects such as the new Leesbrook Academy's Heritage Trail



## Skills and Training

- Board members have developed skills and confidence to make decisions
- Workshop and training opportunities made available to the Board and residents
- Trained and supported residents with new skills such as First Aid, Food Hygiene and FA Football coaching



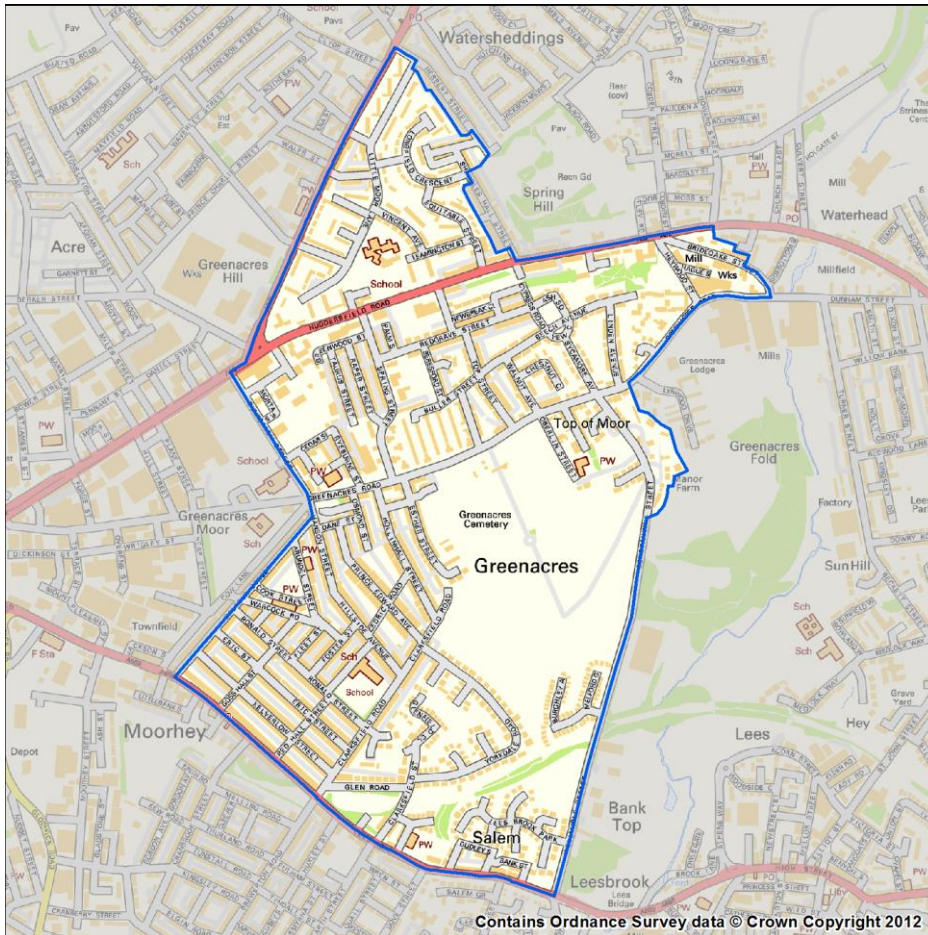
## About our area

BLO serves the areas of Littlemoor, Greenacres and Clarksfield. The three districts are each quite distinct.

**Littlemoor** is mainly comprised of a former council estate, now run by the housing association, First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO). Much of the housing consists of small flats and maisonettes. Consequently, there is a high concentration of single and older people, and social isolation is a problem. The population is also relatively transient. Its assets include a green environment, a children's centre and a park, part of which is a growing hub - Veg in the Park.

**Greenacres** is quite mixed. A former council estate, now managed by FCHO, it consists mainly of family homes with gardens. The rest is mainly Victorian terraced housing. Its assets include 2 community centres, (Greenacres and NEON Hub) and some open spaces, including two play areas catering for young children and teens. One of these play areas is in the process of being upgraded and developed with BLO funding.

**Clarksfield** is overwhelmingly terraced housing with little greenery. It has gated backings which are mainly in a poor state but are potentially a rich asset, both for safe play space and for social mixing in this ethnically diverse area. It also has a park which was recently upgraded and re equipped with BLO funding.



Following our last Community Plan there have been many changes and challenges affecting the area and the wider region. The Coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on our areas with people facing isolation, mental health issues, changes to income and other hardships as a result of the pandemic. During this time the Board invited residents to share their experiences as part of an online survey, key challenges included :

- A lot of people needing help financially
- Increased social isolation and loneliness
- Increased demand for advice, support and food
- A lot more people out of work
- Fly tipping has increased
- Lack of activities has had an adverse impact on mental and physical health
- Increased help needed for vulnerable families, single parents, older people
- More support is needed for residents' fitness, and more recreational areas for residents to enjoy
- Further inequality

As the Coronavirus pandemic put our usual activities on hold, the Board created a plan to support residents in new and refocused ways:



- Donating our Development Worker's time to support Oldham Foodbank with satellite Foodbank provision in our community (alongside Neon Hub) and to support the combined Oldham wide Foodbank
- Creating online engagement opportunities including a weekly online chat, community quizzes, online competition and signposting support via social media
- Delivering Family Wellbeing packs to residents through Food Pantries and Schools in the area at the start of the Summer Holiday period, including information of support services available for families in the area
- Getting involved in local Covid-19 doorstep engagement alongside Oldham Council and Action Together

## Our LTO

A Locally Trusted Organisation (LTO) is the organisation chosen by OBL partnership to administer and account for the distribution of funds and employ staff on behalf of the BLO partnership. This is necessary because BLO doesn't exist as a legal entity and cannot receive, administer and account for funding. This is why The Local Trust asks partnerships to work with organisations which they trust, that have the appropriate skills and structures in place to undertake these activities on the partnership's behalf.

The BLO partnership, for the following plan years has agreed for its LTO to be Action Together CIO. BLO are pleased to have secured the services of Action Together again to assist in making the BLO area a better place for all residents. With Action Together's vast experience in strengthening communities and working with community and voluntary groups in supporting them achieve their goals, we believe we as a partnership can achieve more in our final years of our plan with this LTO. By learning together, sharing skills and pooling resources we can hopefully get more done.

## Our Action Plan

Project	Activities	Vision / themes	Proposed Allocation Year 1	Proposed Allocation Year 2	Proposed Allocation Year 3
Improving Littlemoor	VIP Group Investment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Salary Contribution</li> <li>- Investment in VIP site following loss of income from Covid-19 (repairs only)</li> </ul> To help social enterprise recover from effect of Covid-19 and ensure future sustainability	Economy, New Opportunities, Wellbeing	£10,000	£8,500	£7,500
	VIP Equipment Hire Project	Wellbeing, New Opportunities, People	£3,500	£500	£500
	VIP Holiday Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With focus on engaging Littlemoor Residents</li> </ul>	People, Wellbeing, New Opportunities	£3,000	£2,000	£1,000
	Park Investment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exercise equipment</li> </ul>	People, Wellbeing, Environment	£11,500	£0.00	£0.00
Improving Greenacres	Park Investment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beresford Street Park; exercise equipment</li> </ul>	People, Wellbeing, Environment	£11,500	£0.00	£0.00
	Park Investment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peanut Park: play equipment updates</li> </ul>	People, Wellbeing, Environment	£11,500	£0.00	£0.00
	Neon Hub Investment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding to update facilities to help Neon run effectively and sustainably</li> </ul>	Economy, New Opportunities, Wellbeing, People	£5,000	£2,000	£1,000
Improving Clarksfield	Park Investment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arundel Street Park; exercise equipment</li> <li>- Arundel Street Park; new goal end</li> </ul>	People, Wellbeing, Environment	£20,000	£0.00	£0.00
	Clarksfield Academy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pitches</li> <li>- Community Space</li> </ul>	People, Wellbeing, Environment	£10,000	£5,000	£0.00
	Group Investment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- C&amp;G Football team</li> </ul>	People, Wellbeing, Environment, New Opportunities	£4,000	£3,000	£2,000

	- FA Training Scheme				
	Keep Clarksfield Clean Programme - In partnership with Clarksfield Academy	People, Wellbeing, Environment	£2,000	£1,000	£1,000
	Open Horizons: Alleyway Investment - Three Alleyway updates	People, Wellbeing, Environment	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
Across Our Communities: Activities available to and benefiting all residents	<b>Community Calendar</b> (regular activities) - Knit and Chat (Neon) - Friday Brunch (Neon) - IT Access Group (Neon with Oldham Libraries) - Bereavement Support Group (VIP) - <i>Future group developments and partnerships with other groups tbc</i>	People, Wellbeing, New Opportunities, Economy	£15,000	£12,000	£12,000
	<b>Healthy Lifestyles</b> (focussing on using developed park spaces) - Walking Group - Exercise Classes (varied abilities) - Healthy Food (Growing Activities, Neon Cooking, Clarksfield School) - Wellbeing Activities (crafting, support groups, taster sessions etc)	People, Wellbeing, New Opportunities	£5,000	£10,000	£5,000
	<b>Community Youth Budget</b> - Supporting young residents to access existing youth provision in Borough (such as Mahdlo and Leisure Centre) - Engagement with young people	People, Wellbeing, New Opportunities, Economy	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
	<b>Community Pot</b> - Resident activity/ events fund for use across three areas	People, Wellbeing, New Opportunities	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
	<b>Engagement Activities</b> - Monthly meet up event - Promotional materials/ costs - Event budget	People, Wellbeing, New Opportunities	£2,000	£2,000	£2,000
	<b>Worker Costs</b>			£20,000.00	£25,000.00

Project Management and Admin	Strategic Leadership and Project Management		£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£15,000.00
	Advertising, Publicity and Branding		£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
	Room Hire		£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
	Volunteer Development		£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Big Local Oldham Chest: A fund accessible by residents to develop new ideas	- Covid Response Fund (up to £2000)	People, Wellbeing, New Opportunities, Economy, Environment	£15,000.00	£0.00	£0.00
	- Easy Access (small pot) funding (Under £500)	People, Wellbeing, New Opportunities, Economy, Environment	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000
	- Next Step Group Development Funding (£500 - £2000)	People, Wellbeing, New Opportunities, Economy, Environment	£0.00	£15,000	£15,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£201,000</b>	<b>£138,000</b>	<b>£124,000</b>

## How do we know that this is what our community wants?

In October 2019, the Oldham Big Local Partnership Board appointed a Development Worker, Ella Walker, to help develop further engagement and reach across our three areas.

Ella has made connections with organisations and groups across the area, as well as other professional and statutory partners from the wider Oldham Borough, to broaden our understanding of the aims and experiences of the residents.

To help us develop this Plan, the Board were keen to create new opportunities to reach and communicate with residents. Ella planned a series of community consultation events and activities including regular coffee and cake events, engagement sessions with existing groups and the development of fitness classes and lifelong learning intro sessions to engage more people to connect with Big Local Oldham.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic put a stop to the majority of these plans but thinking creatively, we got information out to people and have been able to gather some fantastic knowledge from our residents. The information is set out in more detail in Appendix 2.

## How will we know our plan is working?

The BLO Partnership Board will carry out a yearly review of this plan. Our key milestones are:

Milestone	To be achieved by?
Completion of 1 alleyway renovation	February 2022
Completion of renovation works at Beresford Park	February 2022
Loft converted at NEON Hub to provide 2 new rooms for new and developing groups to use	February 2022
Shop at Veg in the Park open and trading	February 2022
Outside exercise equipment installed in 1 location	February 2023
3 new groups set up to improve the health and wellbeing of residents	February 2023
3 new regular activities aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of residents taking place in Littlemoor Park	February 2023
1 regular community activity per week taking place at Clarksfield School outside pitches	February 2023

## The Budget

Budget Line	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Improving Littlemoor	£28,000	£11,000	£9,000
Improving Greenacres	£28,000	£2,000	£1,000
Improving Clarksfield	£46,000	£19,000	£13,000
Across our Communities	£32,000	£34,000	£29,000
Project Management and Admin	£47,000	£52,000	£52,000
Big Local Oldham Chest	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000
Yearly total	£201,000	£138,000	£124,000
Total			£463,000.00

## How does this relate to the Big Local Outcomes?

- Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them.
- People will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future.
- The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises.
- People will feel that their area is an even better place to live.

This Plan has been put together by local residents working together with partners and other local residents. The communities within the Big Local Oldham area have worked together to identify local needs and the action that BLO are able to take to respond. The Board members have increased their skills and confidence so that they feel able to speak up, express their opinions and make decisions based on the feedback that they have received from engagement with their communities. By contributing to the discussions the communities have helped to design the proposed solutions which will make a difference to the areas in which they live.

## How have we applied the lessons we have learned from earlier BLO Work?

Please see the extract from our 2018-2020 Plan Review at Appendix 3.

The Board has been led by the resident Board members with increased confidence in their ability to make decisions and try new things. The Board have learned to focus on delivering what is in their control to achieve - they cannot deliver everything and cannot replace the roles of other partners such as the Council. Strong partnerships have formed and are extremely valued and will continue to ensure the legacy of the work of Big Local Oldham going forward.

## Section 3: Legacy Statement

### What does our legacy mean to us?

- Lasting sustainable physical improvement to our area e.g.
  - Arundel Street Park
  - VIP
  - NEON kitchen
  - Improved alleyways
- Self sustaining activities and groups e.g.
  - Friday brunch
  - Knit and chat
  - Boxing and football
  - Keeping alleyways clean and tidy

- Increased skills, knowledge and confidence in the community e.g.
  - Team work
  - Board skills
  - Training e.g. food hygiene
  - Skills learnt during activities e.g. cookery
- Thriving networks e.g.
  - Community groups working together
  - Strong relationship with Oasis Hub and local schools
  - Strong relationship with local leadership teams

**What are our strengths and our best likely outcomes?**

- Several of our projects have acted as catalysts for positive change in our areas e.g. alleyway improvements have increase residents' pride in their areas, and encouraged them to start thinking about improvements they may want to see. People have realised it is possible.
- Residents have a voice in their area

**What aspects of our impact and legacy will last of their own accord?**

- Residents have a renewed pride in their area
- Residents have the skills and confidence to get things done
- Improved local spaces for residents to get together
- Recognition as NEON as a hub for the area

**Will any ongoing resources be needed, and if so where will these come from?**

- To enable facilitation of networks and activities
- To support community hub

**Potential sources of income:**

- Grants
- Income generation

**Will our partnership continue in any form?**

- As a network coming together to form a core organisation

**How does our legacy fit with anything else that may be in the future for our area?**

- Fits with new placed based working in Oldham



## Appendix 1 - Oldham Big Local Vision and Priorities

### People

In our Big Local vision, the most important and valuable thing for our community continues to be the people. Everyone working together for each other. We love these quotes from our recent resident engagement survey...

*“Community spirit as always is still high people helping each other, volunteering where possible” “My neighbours are my favourite thing about where I live. It is nice to be able to do more with them”*

### New Opportunities

We want to continue to help people to get involved with new opportunities. Our aim is to create positive experiences and support people to try new things. People here will have knowledge and confidence to improve the quality of their lives and change their neighbourhoods now and for the future.

*“It’s great being part of a transformation”* Clarksfield Resident

### Environment

Our vision to make our streets and our neighbourhoods cleaner, safer and more inviting spaces continues to develop. It’s important now more than ever for people to access safe outdoor spaces that are safe and inviting for everyone.

We are working to make our neighbourhoods a place we all be proud to call home. We are all responsible for creating spaces we can be proud of.

### Wellbeing

Our vision is for a community in which people are happier, healthier, feel safe and feel good about their lives.

We wish to continue supporting peoples Wellbeing particularly in response to the changes and challenges affecting our communities.

### Economy

Our vision is for a stronger local economy that makes the money go around our communities.

We want to invest in the people who live here and give them a chance to make the most of their potential.

**There is no magic wand - it's up to all of us to make it happen!**

### ***Involvement***

*We continue to work together with residents across our areas in ways that get as many people as possible involved, making decisions and making a real difference to make this a better place to live, work and play.*

### ***Partnership***

*Our vision is to make changes to make this area the best it can. From our existing work we know the only way to achieve this is if we all work together. We aim to continue to grow our partnerships for the future, working with people who live here, community groups, faith groups, Oldham Council and local businesses.*

### ***Sustainability***

*By developing lasting partnerships and networks for people we will continue to work hard to make sure the good changes we have made will have a lasting legacy, beyond the 10 years of Big Local.*

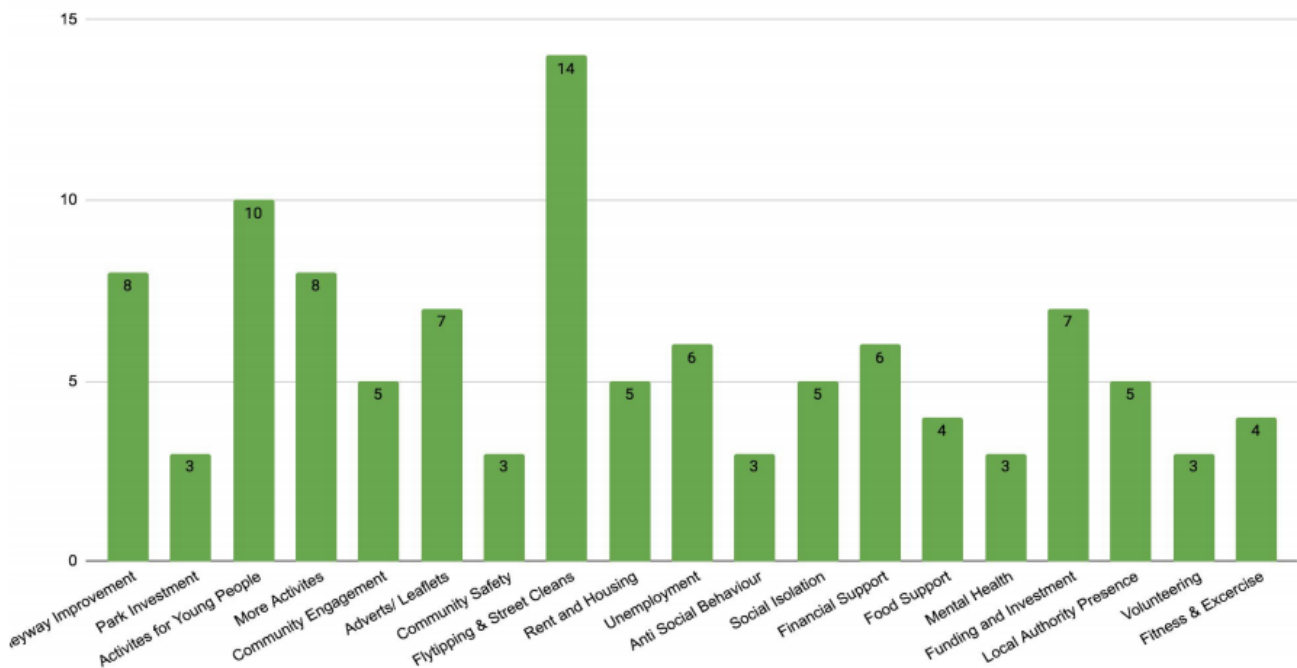
## Appendix 2 - Community Engagement Summary

<b>Community Consultation Events and Activities</b>				
<i>In person</i>	<i>Online</i>	<i>Survey</i>	<i>Resident Led</i>	<i>Other</i>
Coffee Morning - Clarksfield Academy	Social Media Networking	Online Community Engagement Survey	Conversations reported to Ella and the Board from Resident Members	
Community Catch Up Events - March - Neon Hub	Young Peoples Competition	Partnership Board Survey	Sharing physical copies of the Survey	
Parents Group - Clarksfield Academy	Weekly Zoom Catch Up - Every Thursday since June		Meeting with neighbours in public spaces	
Knit and Chat - Neon Hub (November and December 2019)				
Moari Men's Group - Neon Hub (November 2019)				
Crafty Maids - Veg in the Park (December and January 2019-2020)				
Veg in the Park Members (December 2019)				
Meet the Parents and Carers - Incredible Plastic Street Band Session (February 2020)				

## Resident Collected Feedback

- Alleyway redevelopment and regeneration,
- Regular Litter picking/community clean ups,
- Access to the finished facilities (pitch etc) and community involvement with the new Oasis Academy Clarksfield School,
- A community garden/growing area
- Further development of Arundel Street park
- A community area similar to the development at the back of Esther Street (it's a Grass and road area, with Planters, Flowers etc adjacent to the Cemetery wall).
- Holiday activities for young people
- Activities in Arundel Street Park
- Activities to raise young people's aspirations
- Access to IT and WiFi
- Activities for teenagers as well as young kids

Key Themes Identified for New Plan



## Appendix 3

### What have we learned - extract from 2018-2020 Plan Review

#### 2018-20 Plan Review - What have we learnt?

To understand what we have learnt across the 2018-20 plan the partnership group completed an individual questionnaire (Appendix E: Individual Involvement Survey) exploring what they have learnt and experienced as members of the Partnership Group which was then discussed within the group at the second planning workshop held on Mon 2 March 2020.

#### What have we learnt?

- There is no magic wand (to 'fix' things with)
- To be more tolerant / not judgemental to others
- Residents should be at heart of BLO and able to lead activities
- £1million is lots of money, but also no money (when looking at everything that is needed in the community)
- It can be hard to engage with residents as residents, other residents have more and different challenges
- Learnt that BLO has limitations - we cannot do everything
- Collaborative working works - coming together can help us achieve more

#### What do we need to learn?

- How to further engage with residents in Littlemoor (where we have experienced less engagement so far)
- When to draw the line / move on from a project:
  - Specific projects rather than whole areas
  - Try different approaches
- How to communicate that you do not have to join Board to make a change
  - Other ways for residents to be involved
- How to ask the right questions, get at root of problems not just straight to solution

#### What do we wish we had known at the beginning?

- Wish current Board were in existence at beginning (focus on resident members)
- Resident led = residents' money
- Quality of residents' decisions not questioned - it is OK to learn
- Go for it - you can learn from things that do not go according to what you might have planned