

## ANNEX C

### Active Cotswold -Key Achievements (January 2024)

#### Workstream 1- Healthier District

1. Development and adoption of a district wide Playing Pitch Strategy and action plan. The strategy identifies the current and future demand for playing pitches (Football, Rugby Union, Cricket, Hockey and Polo) across the District.
2. In September 2022, the Council recruited a Community Support Officer - Physical Activity through external funding (Strengthening Local Communities Grant) to support the Active Cotswold programme. This enabled the delivery of a range of new initiatives based on the feedback that was received and is being received through continuous community engagement:
  - Community Fit Kits (made available for free to community groups, housing associations etc.)
  - New Outdoor Movement Class in Fairford (potential to roll out to other areas)
  - Chair exercise sessions in partnership with Cirencester College
  - Active Cotswold Live Event on 1st October in Cirencester with Mr Motivator
  - Mr Motivator Motivation Club district subscription, which enables free access for people on low income, with long term health conditions including mental health problems as well as for exercise referral participants.
  - Walking for Wellbeing Scheme (free training for volunteers to become walk leaders)
3. All activities undertaken by the programme are aiming to reduce inequalities by making activities available, accessible and affordable by all. At the same time, a non-stigmatising approach is applied.

Examples of specific activities are:

  - 5 targeted community events in areas of higher deprivation in 2023
  - working with Bromford and Foodbanks to make physical activity opportunities accessible to disadvantaged groups (e.g., Fit Kits, promoting existing low/no cost activities, engage with cohort to better understand what is wanted, free access to Mr Motivator online classes)
4. Crowdfund Cotswold supported 14 projects so far that are contributing to helping residents to become more active, with a collective value of £366,810, towards which the council contributed £81,554.

## Workstream 2 - Connected Community

5. We have been working with Cotswold Lakes Trust on their Enjoy and Respect campaign, aiming to raise awareness of the environmental impacts anti-social behaviour can have on this natural area of beauty. It is so important to protect natural areas of beauty so that people are encouraged to come out and enjoy them as well as preserving them for future generations. [Read more.](#)
6. Fitness equipment replacement and refurbishment at Cirencester and Bourton Leisure Centre.
7. Capital programme of works to support the implementation of the new Leisure Management Contract, which include improvements to Cirencester and Bourton Leisure Centres.
8. Leisure Contract Procurement complete - the new contract with Freedom Leisure commenced in August 2023, contract service specification aligns to the outcomes of Active Cotswold.
9. Established Cotswold Food Network and activities/projects of the network so far include cost of living community events, strategic work with advice and support agencies around financial inclusion/debt advice, grow your own scheme and courses for the community, setting up food projects e/g. pantries. To support the networks' aim of improving food equity across the Cotswold district, a Community Support Officer – Food Sustainability has been recruited in December 2023 (part-time, fixed term until November 2026). This post is funded through the 'Strengthening Local Communities Grant'.
10. Supported/established Bourton and Tetbury Digital Inclusion courses for residents
11. Held a number of local community engagement events to enable community-led action
12. The Community Wellbeing Team focuses on enabling enhanced, inclusive and sustainable community based physical activity opportunities. To better understand barriers to physical activity and what people would like to engage in, the team has undertaken extensive door knocking and engagement sessions with existing groups in key areas across the district as well as an online survey.  
  
Targeted engagement with local communities is an ongoing activity. 16 engagement visits carried out plus 3 NHS Bus engagements.  
  
**Groups visited-**  
  
Tetbury Friendship café, The Churn Memory Café Cirencester, Stow Dementia café, W4W Fairford and Lechlade, The Barton Club Cirencester, Parkinsons UK Cirencester, The Churn Job Club Morton in Marsh, Monday Club Tetbury.

**Also visited-**

Bromford Housing at Chesterton, Southmede, The Beeches, South Cerney, Moreton In Marsh, Bourton on the Water, Lechlade.

NHS Bus with Strong & Steady in Cirencester and Glos Carers Hub in Lechlade and Fairford.

**Other engagements with organisations-**

Talked to GRCC Social Prescribers and at Know Your Patch Meeting. Partnered with Cirencester College to run a Dementia Chair exercise class. Trained 8 Walk leaders from different organisations to lead Wellbeing Walks. Active Cotswold LIVE event reached over 100 people.

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**Workstream 3 - Active Environment**

13. To encourage Active Travel in and around the Cotswold Water Park we have produced a video showing a snapshot of what it is like to cycle one of the 6 circular cycle routes in the Water Park. [Watch the video.](#)

14. New cycle park installations - 19 new cycle stands have now been installed as part of round 1 of provision. Locations are at the Memorial Hall in Lechlade; Hilary Cottage Surgery & the Football Club in Fairford; the One Stop Shop, Village Hall and Upper Up Playing Field in South Cerney.

15. Walking and cycling improvements have been made around Cotswold Water Park ensuring it is sustainable and more accessible for everyone. New cycle parking has been installed at 6 locations in the Water Park. There is also a new section of cycle path linking NCN45 (Railway Path) with Cerney Wick bridge to make cycling and walking more accessible. New wayfinding boards have also been installed in 5 of the key destinations to guide visitors to new and interesting places. [Read more](#)

16. Development of Sustainable Transport Strategy

17. Development of Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan

18. Development of Transport decarbonisation study