WCC Community Hubs Programme

Project Initiation Document

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Protection

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Approvals

This document requires the following approvals.

Name	Title	Signature	Date of Issue	Version
Cllr Aicha Less	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Children and Public Protection			3.0
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Contents

Revision History	2
Approvals	2
Contents	3
Purpose of Document	4
Background & context	4
Strategic alignment	4
Summary aim, objectives & outcomes	5
Scope, proposed change & implementation model	8
Stakeholders	20
Deliverables	20
Process measures	21
Benefits	22
Financial benefits	
Non-financial benefits	22
Assumptions	25
Constraints	25
Risks	26
Dependencies	27
Resources	28
Headline programme	28

Purpose of Document

This *Programme Brief* aims to consolidate and validate the activity undertaken to date on the Community Hubs programme, which reports in to Change Board. It aims to provide an overview of the aims, objectives and outcomes, an explanation of the scope and implementation model, and the associated stakeholders, benefits, risks and resources of the programme.

Background & context

In 2022, Westminster City Council launched its new Fairer Westminster agenda, establishing a range of commitments to improve life outcomes for Westminster residents under five key pillars.

The Fairer Westminster plan includes the delivery of a set of new 'Community Hubs' which should make it easy for everyone to access different services in one place throughout neighbourhoods, including:

- Working in a place-based way, recognising the unique assets, opportunities, priorities and needs
 of communities living in different neighbourhoods
- Reducing health inequalities, including those faced by our Global Majority communities
- Making contacting council officers much easier, and improving how we work to provide effective and timely resolution of issues
- Improving how we listen to our residents and incorporate their views into our work, informed by the new Charter for Community Participation

Furthermore, Community Hubs should support the Council's broader corporate ambitions and statutory obligations, with regards to equalities, the climate emergency and its Strategic Asset Management Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan commitments. Community Hubs are named in the Future of Westminster Commission report.

Strategic alignment

The delivery of Community Hubs aims to contribute to our Fairer Westminster, #2035 and Westminster Way ambitions, a number of which are highlighted below:

Fairer Westminster

- Make it easy for everyone to access different services in one place by starting to create community 'hub' spaces throughout neighbourhoods
- Help families access services that tackle inequalities and strengthen the multi-agency support provided by Family Hubs and libraries
- Find new and better ways of working together with our communities to improve people's health and wellbeing, particularly for our most disadvantaged residents
- Improve how we listen to our residents and incorporate their views into our work, which will be informed by the Charter for Community Participation
- Test a place-based approach to making North Paddington's public spaces and communities healthier, wealthier and safer then rolling the approach out across the city
- Reduce health inequalities faced by our Global Majority communities

Reduce carbon emissions and supporting our city's sustainability through the Sustainable City
 Charter

#2035 aims to tackle health inequalities and reduce the 18-year life expectancy gap between Westminster's richest and poorest communities by:

- Listen: involve and empower communities
- Connect: work across organisations and partners
- Amplify: make visible what is being done
- Accelerate: align all efforts for progress

The <u>Westminster Way</u> recognises that everyone has talent, everyone is valued and everyone is a leader. This means we build coaching and mentoring, constant learning, diversity and inclusion, and empowerment into how we work.

The programme also contributes to priorities outlined by broader WCC strategies on co-design and collaboration with communities, co-location and integration of accessible services and support, and VCS development.

Summary aim, objectives & outcomes

Aim

The aim of this project is to improve Westminster residents' outcomes by creating a series of community hubs which improve access to services and support and strengthen community resilience, by collaborating with communities to co-design and deliver local Community Hubs cross the City.

What is a Community Hub?

The following definition is a summary based on programme documentation and discussions to date – it is intended as a starting point for further development through developing a programme theory of change, engagement and further discussion:

"A community hub is an accessible, collaborative space which provides a central access point for a diverse range of services and support, from housing and healthcare to community activities. A Hub is uniquely shaped by community input, aligning with local needs and broader council services to create equity and enhance well-being, engagement and connection."

Objectives

The Community Hubs programme has five key objectives [to be validated/developed through theory of change] which align with the Communities department and wider Council:

1. More resilient communities, focusing on tackling health inequalities

Research shows that areas with higher levels of social infrastructure – physical spaces which enable people from diverse communities to meet, build relationships and participate in

activities with each other – have better health outcomes. Such spaces strengthen social trust and relational capital, which in turn act as both protective and responsive factors in tackling health inequalities: a priority for our vulnerable communities. Community Hubs should increase connections and strengthen relationships across neighbourhoods, providing opportunities for meeting new people, participating in collective action and shaping their neighbourhoods.

2. Better access to services and support

Communities know best the type of support they need, but most decisions about which services are delivered from which sites or in which areas are centralised. Residents will often face other barriers to accessing the support they need: from barriers to accessing support online, to different services being offered from different sites or via different mediums, to negative experiences of council contact, to the need for support best provided by community, voluntary sector or other statutory agencies. Community Hubs should provide integrated services and support which communities themselves identify, within 15 minutes of where people live.

3. Effective, consistent collaboration between WCC and our communities

The premise of 'nothing about us, without us' recognises the gap between communities and service design, policy development and decision-making activities in the Council, which have in the past been undertaken without engaging those impacted by a new idea or change – or simply consulting on proposals which have already been developed. This overlooks the wealth of communities' knowledge and insight, often blunting efforts and sometimes doing harm.

Community Hubs should be fully co-designed with communities, and provide place-based spaces for ongoing collaboration between the Council and residents.

4. Strengthening civil society and the voluntary sector

In order to tackle inequalities and improve residents' lives, the Council needs to invest in creating the conditions for a thriving civil society and voluntary sector – the groups and charities working in our communities often have the best understanding of how to most effectively respond to challenges and opportunities, and are frequently staffed by local people. Community Hubs should strengthen existing organisations, amplify the work of local groups and work with funders, partners and residents to support new initiatives to grow.

5. Actively contributing to our EDI, climate emergency and financial commitments

The Council recognises that the EDI, climate emergency and financial dimensions of its activities have ethical, equalities and economic implications. This requires us to consider how the programme is designed, the environmental and carbon impacts of opening new sites, as well as how to allocate our Council's limited financial resources to best serve our communities and their futures. The Community Hubs programme should work with Communities colleagues, service leads, Corporate Property and Finance to embed an equalities-led approach, and consider and identify opportunities for property rationalisation, carbon/emission reductions and service integration opportunities.

It is expected that each hub will contribute to all five objectives, although to varying degrees depending on site, context, capacity and approach.

There are four domains of delivery through which we will seek to achieve our objectives:

- i. Programme approach: how to deliver the programme
- ii. Spatial design: how each Hub site/space is physically designed
- iii. Model design: how the management and operational model of each Hub is designed
- iv. Delivery & programming: how each Hub is managed and the activities it delivers

Each domain of delivery should consider how to best achieve our objectives, which is outlined below in our approach to programme delivery.

Outcomes (benefits)

The following headline outcomes are further developed in the following sections, and align with the Council's #2035 ambitions.

- More resilient communities, focusing on tackling health inequalities:
 - Increase in community connections and social capital
 - Improvement in health and quality of life outcomes
 - Increase in community activity participants and hours
 - Uptake of employment skills, work experience and volunteering opportunities
- Better access to services and support:
 - Increase in footfall
 - Increase in service engagements
 - Level/type of signpostings
 - Improvement in customer satisfaction and feedback
- Effective, consistent collaboration between WCC and our communities:
 - Increase in trust within/between communities and WCC
 - Increase of community representation and involvement in decision-making and management
 - o Increase in partnerships, collaborations and joint projects
- Strengthening civil society and the voluntary sector:
 - Increase in usage of affordable space for community groups and VCS organisations
 - Increase in numbers and types of organisations using spaces
 - o Increase in community activities, events, projects and initiatives
 - Increase in support of local groups and organisations
- Actively contributing to our EDI, climate emergency and financial commitments:
 - o Increase of diversity and representation in participation and delivery of programmes
 - Increase of environmental sustainability and carbon reduction of spaces and operations

Scope, proposed change & implementation model

Scope & headline implications

The Community Hubs programme is tasked with developing and delivering new Community Hubs across Westminster.

(Please note this section primarily focuses on the scope of the programme and the headline implications, interfaces and dependencies with other areas of work, which are also commented on in the 'strategic alignment' and 'dependencies' sections. The specific work involved in each stage is described in the following 'implementation approach/model' section.)

1. <u>Identifying Hub sites</u>

The Community Hubs team is expected to work with Corporate Property to identify proposed Community Hub sites, drawing also on input from Strategy & Insight, service leads, Finance and external stakeholders, including through community engagement insight. This process should use data about community priorities and needs, current and prospective assets, service availability and economic and environmental requirements, to inform a proposed list of sites which is put forward for consideration.

The site identification approach will include, but not be limited to, existing council assets. It will also look to identify partner and other prospective sites which are well positioned and/or meet the spatial requirements needed for a potential Community Hub, should they prove feasible and preferable sites.

2. Delivering Community Hubs

The Community Hubs team is expected to work with communities, including existing service users, service areas across the Council (including Corporate Property and in particular service areas identified as a local priority or need through engagement) and wider partners and stakeholders, in order to deliver the programme.

It is expected that the programme's commitment to collaboration and co-design with communities will require the team and wider organisation to work differently, investing in preparation and planning, operating transparently, making decisions collaboratively and communicating proactively. It is anticipated too that this approach will require the Council to 'give up power', including an openness to compromise on approaches or plans it would otherwise have developed independently and potentially differently.

Whilst this approach does not commit the Council to provide whatever communities identify as their priorities through engagement (or to accommodate whatever is asked in a new hub), it is expected that the programme will rely on internal stakeholders to engage, collaborate and even alter their approach on the basis of engagement and co-design activities. Equally, it is incumbent on the programme team to ensure that colleagues are well briefed, supported and their expectations or parameters understood, to enable them to contribute to the programme as effectively as possible.

3. Operating Community Hubs

The Community Hubs team is expected to consider both the individual operating model of each Community Hub and the wider management model through which the Council oversees, manages, supports and reviews all Community Hubs and their activities.

This work should complement and align with strategies in Corporate Property and VCS investment and support, and with approaches to asset management in specific service areas affected (for example Housing).

Implications for the Council's estate and service delivery model/s

Whilst not formally within the scope of the Community Hubs programme, it should be noted that work undertaken through the programme intersects with the following agendas:

• The Strategic Asset Management Plan identifies the Council's approach to managing its estate, including being customer-focused (i.e. ensuring that assets best serve residents through accessibility, convenience and delivery), aligning property portfolios with the Council's corporate goals and objectives, creating efficiencies through a joined-up strategic approach and being carbon net zero for the operational estate by 2030 and meeting MTFP targets. There are also a number of related initiatives which have synergies with 'hubs': opening of new housing offices/service centres, provision of advice services, refresh of library buildings strategy as well as existing (Family & Youth) and new (night-time economy and community safety-focused) hubs'. It is expected that the Hubs programme should contribute to cohesive development of considerations and proposals which support Corporate Property's objectives with regards to this broader landscape.

On this basis it is recommended that these objectives are built into the assessment criteria and process for identifying Hub sites, and that the team works closely with Corporate Property colleagues including to identify opportunities for efficiencies and savings through co-location, consolidation and potential asset rationalisation.

• A central ambition for the Community Hubs programme expressed by members and key stakeholders is that the Hubs should operate as sites which provide a range of services and support identified by communities, but equally that these services should operate in an 'integrated' way, moving 'beyond co-location' to address and resolve issues raised by residents, and/or their broader their needs. This is a significant undertaking which cannot be achieved through the physical delivery of Community Hubs and has implications for existing service and operational models, resources and budgets. However, there is no clear current mandate for broader service integration and/or transformation across the organisation or based on the needs or service areas felt to be a priority for the Community Hubs programme.

On this basis it is recommended that:

- The Community Hubs team joins and supports service transformation activities and efforts across the organisation where they exist and pertain to the needs or service areas identified by communities through programme engagement.
- The programme is seen as an opportunity to pilot new, co-located and/or integrated approaches to service delivery and support, including with external partners, with Community Hub sites encouraged to work in different ways, capture learning, report back and make recommendations which inform the organisation's approach to service integration and transformation. This should be led by a 'Hub Lead' across hub sites, able to convene, coordinate, identify improvements and support learning and evaluation.

More broadly, it is expected that the Community Hubs programme will work collaboratively across the Council, embodying the ambitions of the Westminster Way, and seeking to further the organisation's aims and ambitions including, but not limited to, its equalities, diversity and inclusion, anti-racist and climate emergency initiatives.

Implementation approach/model

The following section explains the different types of Community Hub space we aim to deliver, the rationale for each and the programme approach to identifying sites, delivering and operating hubs.

Three levels of Community Hub have been identified which aim to respectively respond to the need for early delivery, enhance existing service delivery sites and maximise impact through collaboration with communities, as follows:

- i. <u>Interim/short-term sites</u> will provide a pop-up or meanwhile community space within the next 6 months to ensure that the north, central and south parts of Westminster each have a hub space. This can be used for community meetings and events, service delivery drop-ins and to support wider co-design and engagement activity. An example of this would be the space available at Queen Mother Sports Centre in the south of the City.
 - (It may be that in due course it is felt that smaller, simpler hub sites are a welcome complement to Hub Lite and full Community Hub sites, similar to Waltham Forest's 'Community Living Rooms'.)
- ii. <u>Hub Lite sites</u> will establish community space/s within an existing *council-led* or *VCS-led* building. This provides opportunities for co-locating and integrating support for residents, whilst creating or strengthening an onsite offer for community activity and connection. Overall management and oversight of these sites would remain with the existing operator. An example of this would be repurposing spaces for wider community use on an existing NHS site.
- iii. <u>Full Community Hub sites</u> will target priority #2035 communities, recognising that residents with worse health and social outcomes are often the most apprehensive about accessing services and support. These sites will be fulled co-designed, delivering services and support identified with communities through engagement and analysis, and community- or VCS-led on the basis of a new commission.

	Description	Site context	Co-design approach	Management arrangements	Rationale
i. Interim or	Single community	Well-located but	Consultation with	Bookable for	Need for swift
Short-Term	room or space	very limited scope	residents to	activity via current	delivery of
	which can be used	for additional or	identify décor, fit-	building	community spaces
	for meetings,	transformation of	out and furniture	management	in north, central
	events or drop-ins	space	requirements	operator	and south of City
ii. Hub Lite	Service-led site	Existing council,	Co-design of	Operator retains	Enables
	(most likely	VCS or other	community	oversight but	Westminster-wide
	council, health or	facility but limited	spaces, fit-out,	arrangements	coverage by
	VCS-led) including	scope, feasibility	furniture and	established to	building on
	meaningful or	or benefit in	programme; and	ensure community	existing 'hubs'
	multiple spaces for	significant changes	where feasible	benefits from	(e.g. libraries or
	community-led	to space	wider site/scheme	space	community
	activity and				centres)
	connection				
iii. Full	Community-led	Well-located site	Co-design of	Community- or	Fully co-designed
Community	Hub including	with meaningful	whole site	VCS-led	hubs are most
Hub	community, VCS	quantum of space	alongside services	dependent on	likely to result in
	and council	and scope for	and partners,	model,	accessible spaces
	services and	change	including spaces,	accommodating	which better serve
	activities		fit-out and model	service delivery	priority
				activity	communities

It will be necessary to work with colleagues across the Council, in particular in communications and those operating 'hubs' or resident-facing assets – and with external partners – to develop clear branding and messaging which simplifies and communicates the Council's 'hub' offer, so as to avoid confusion and optimise access.

This approach should build on the Strategic Asset Management Plan and environmental commitments which look at how to best utilise current council assets, adopt a strategic approach to the Council's estate and reduce our carbon footprint. It should also align with broader transformation activities, for example supporting library transformation and better utilisation of leisure spaces.

The following approach outlines how we will identify sites, design and deliver Community Hubs across Westminster, and put in place an operator, management and reporting requirements, pending the delivery of a detailed programme plan.

1. <u>Identifying Hub sites</u>

Identifying the correct Community Hub sites is critical: ensuring that their location, size and flexibility result in improved access, more effective support and better outcomes for communities. The following data points seek to ensure that the site identification process leads to selecting optimal locations, avoiding a 'tail wagging the dog' scenario where immediately available or 'obvious' assets trump

strategic considerations and ensuring that sites meet the spatial requirements for responding to communities' priorities and enabling meaningful co-design.

Stage 1: information-gathering

a. Identification of priority communities/neighbourhoods

Our #2035 ambitions focus on tackling healthy and social inequalities, recognising the significant differences in life outcomes between our wealthiest and poorest communities. The Community Hubs programme seeks to be part of the solution to this problem by providing accessible, local spaces within a 15-minute walk of where residents live, in which they can connect with others, take action in their community and access integrated services and support.

Communities and neighbourhoods across Westminster will be assessed on the basis of indices of multiple deprivation, health inequalities data and data on civic strength/community needs. Given the correlation across these datasets, it is expected that 'priority communities/neighbourhoods' will be identified as those with Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the most 20% deprived nationally, although this will be cross-referenced and analysed.

The identification of priority communities/neighbourhoods will be used to inform the identification of needs (see below) and the neighbourhoods in which a full Community Hub offer is recommended.

b. Identification of needs (based on publicly available data)

Different parts of Westminster – including both priority communities/neighbourhoods and the wider population – will have different needs, strengths, challenges and trends in the data. Using LSOA-demarcated priority communities/neighbourhoods and ward boundaries respectively, and drawing on existing ward profiles and broader data sources, a series of area profiles will be created to identify the key needs which should inform hub provision through engagement and co-design activity.

c. Mapping of local assets and service coverage

Westminster has a rich landscape of current council, wider statutory, voluntary sector and community services, not all of which are known to local residents or across the Council. Mapping assets currently delivering services or providing community space will identify potential opportunities for Hub locations. Similarly, mapping service coverage will identify cold spots in existing service provision which could benefit from a strategic view. This data should also be used to inform engagement and co-design activity.

(It should be noted that in the first instance, certainly in relation to proposed full Community Hub sites, it is not assumed that a potential asset or site must be councilowned or run by a council partner, although this could be helpful. The analysis and identification process should identify the recommended location and preferred

specification of the site/asset, which might require the consideration of assets no in the Council's ownership or purview.)

d. Collation of community engagement insights

Community engagement insight should play a central role in understanding community priorities and opportunities, and feeding into site identification. Communities will provide different, real-time perspectives based on their lived experience, which should be looked at alongside more traditional datasets (points a to c), as well as identifying where energy, momentum and ideas which can be built on already exist. Insights and activities should inform the ideal location, size and scope for change of a preferred site.

e. Review of synergies/rationalisation with other assets/services, and carbon/emissions reduction opportunities

Identifying local and strategic considerations should feed into the site identification process. For example, in our North Paddington and Pimlico-focused place-based programmes, we should align with emerging recommendations and insights; in relation to our financial and environmental commitments, it will be important to consider how different sites could contribute to or undermine our objectives, for example through additional revenue costs or carbon output.

Stage 2: analysis & identification

The site identification process should draw together findings from (a) to (e) alongside the set of criteria which have been identified for respective types of Community Hub through the following process:

a. Collate and synthesise Stage 1 data

Data gathered across Stage 1 steps (in particular a/b/d), service coverage data should be collated and synthesised, so that it can be used to highlight priority areas, types of need and engagement insights. Engagement insights should also be used to identify the 'places' residents identify with and traverse: ward boundaries are often not consistent with communities' views of the neighbourhoods in which they live, and often will not consider the impact that physical barriers (arterial roads, waterways, green spaces, estates and so on) have on movement, association and hence access.

b. Model ideal/preferred location scenarios and identify prospective sites

The modelling of preferred locations (i.e. where in an ideal world sites could be selected to enable both priority community and whole Westminster coverage) will necessarily be an iterative process which interfaces with the identification of prospective sites.

Modelling of locations should provide an indication of the number and different types of hub across Westminster, assuming the availability of sites or – particularly in relation to Hub Lite locations – the existence of existing assets (e.g. libraries). In the case of full

Community Hub locations, it may be necessary to explore the potential of sites beyond the Council's current estate or partners.

The table below provides headline criteria for the analysis or prospective sites, identifying the location, capacity and offer expectations for different types of hub. [To be validated/developed through theory of change process.]

Headline criteria for analysis of prospective sites

	Location/Site	Site/Capacity	Potential Offer
Interim or Short-Term	 Within an existing council or local asset Good visibility/main thoroughfare with high footfall Accessible, including with good transport links, and easy to signpost 	At least one room for community meetings, small-scale gatherings and service drop-ins Reception/welcome facility Availability within 6 months for a minimum of 12 months	- Accessible to all/general public
Hub Lite	 An existing council or local/partner asset (existing relationship with WCC) Good visibility/main thoroughfare with high footfall Accessible, including with good transport links, and easy to signpost 	- At least two rooms for community meetings and small-scale gatherings and ideally facilities which could be used for catering - Services/service providers covering a wide range of issues - Welcoming front of house reception/area - Availability within 9 months for a minimum of 3 years	Accessible to all/general public Capacity to accommodate multiple services covering a wide range of issues
	 Presents asset rationalisation opportunities 	on and carbon reduction	
Full Community Hub	An ideally located asset (on basis of priority community analysis) Good visibility/main thoroughfare with high footfall Accessible, including with good transport links, and easy to signpost	- Multiple rooms with community access, including at least one larger hall for community activities and ideally facilities for a café space - Services/service providers covering a wide range of issues - Welcoming front of house reception/area - Availability within 12 months for a minimum of 5 years	 Accessible to all/general public Capacity to accommodate multiple services covering a wide range of issues Capacity to accommodate additional services/service providers identified by communities
	- Presents asset rationalisation	,	

NB All sites will need to meet accessibility, health & safety and other applicable regulatory requirements; furthermore, the assessment of potential sites should consider not solely the current status of the building but its potential for change/transformation. For example, if a Community Hub Lite site does not currently have multiple community spaces or kitchen facilities but these could be delivered through the co-design/delivery process, this would meet the required criteria.

The modelling and site selection exercise will need to be underpinned by an analysis of the financial and environmental implications of different location scenarios, and ideally communities would be more closely involved in analysis and selection of locations, catchments and proposed sites. It may be possible to enable community input into this process, although not as much as would be possible over a longer period.

The output from this step is:

- An updated map of recommended hub locations and catchments
- Proposed hub types and sites, subject to additional checks
- Analyses of the financial and environmental implications of the proposed approach

(The above approach could be replaced or combined with a more organic approach, which started by identifying priority communities/neighbourhoods and corresponding hub locations/sites, supplemented with existing/early commitments in Bayswater and QMSC and making strategic assumptions, for example that libraries provide a natural starting point for Hub Lite sites.)

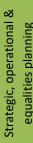
c. Sign-off on site identification proposal

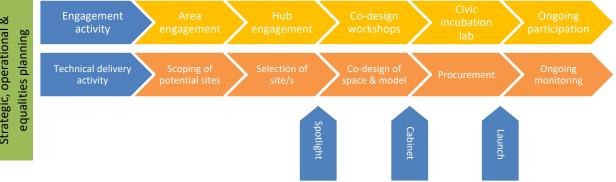
The site identification proposal should be signed off by Community Hubs programme governance, in turn informing communications, the establishment of new workstreams and an updated programme, and agreeing resource implications/allocations as required.

2. <u>Delivering Community Hubs</u>

The Community Hubs programme is premised on co-producing hub spaces across Westminster with residents, partners and stakeholders. Community Hubs should reflect the priorities, needs and opportunities of each community, starting with a focus on what matters most to local people, considering where and how a Community Hub can best meet their priorities, and collaborating with colleagues and partners to respond to issues for which a hub is not an appropriate solution.

The approach to delivery for each hub aligns two processes: engagement and technical delivery, as illustrated by the following figure and detailed below.





Engagement approach

The table below outlines the overlapping phases of engagement activity which inform the priorities for, specification and design of a Community Hub in each area. The structured co-design process (c) and ongoing community development activity will vary depending on the type of hub: for interim/short-term or Hub Lite sites, co-design and community development activity may be smaller scale.

Phase	Name	Description of activity	Period	Outcomes	Key outputs/deliverable s
Preparation		approach		t activity planning, including EQ	
A	Area engagement	Open engagement activities across target areas to create an understanding of priorities, needs, ideas and generate interest (e.g. street-based engagement, meanwhile space use, market stalls, door-knocking)	Min. 3 months	Increased understanding of community (priorities, needs & ideas) Increased awareness and buy-in of residents	- Identification of potential 'active residents' & community leaders - Area engagement summary document, identifying engagement insights & qualitative data
Review & pla	nning	Engagement activity planning based on identified site, including EQIA refresh			
В	Hub engagement	Open engagement activities across target areas to identify key priorities, activities and ideas for a local Community Hub (e.g. street-based engagement, meanwhile space use, market stalls, door-knocking)	2-3 months	Validation/prioritisation of Phase 1 outputs Increased understanding of hub priorities & opportunities Increased awareness and buy-in of residents	- Identification of potential 'active residents' & community leaders - Community Hub specification

С	Co-design process	Structured, closed codesign process to develop design brief & operational model, shared through open engagement activities with wider stakeholders for feedback and validation (e.g. workshops & visits – both online, in the proposed space and	3 months	- Improved relations/understandin g between residents and WCC on local needs - Strengthened relationships between local/future CH stakeholders
Procuremen		-	•	h basis of Phase 3 outputs (building and model
preparation D	Launch	Community involvement in launch and established in governance, leadership, decision-making & programming	TBC	- Improved outcomes for participants - Improved outcomes for participants - Improved outcomes for residents - Improved outcomes for services
Ongoing	Community- building & incubation	Programme of activities, support and community-building to create a sense of shared ownership, momentum and excitement in/around the Hub space	Phase B onward s	- Improved sense of ownership over CH/project projects - Improved understanding & skills relevant to CH operation - Strengthened relationships between key stakeholders - Community-led activities & projects - Emerging core/steering group

A detailed approach to our engagement approach is outlined in the <u>Community Hubs Engagement & Participation Strategy and Delivery plan document</u>.

Technical delivery

The table below outlines the stages of the technical delivery process, which aligns with the engagement approach. Crucially, it requires a different way of working across staff, consultants/contractors and members, doing earlier work to ensure decisions with communities can be made 'in the room'. This avoids mismanaging residents' expectations or perceptions of a lack of transparency in decision-making. Hence, members and senior stakeholders will be presented up front with parameters and principles for each stage of technical delivery and co-design activities for sign-off, as well as regular updates and final outputs. This aims to minimise the risk of co-design activities developing outputs (for example a specific building layout or operational model) which is not accepted or to which alterations are proposed.

Phase	Name	Description of activity	Period	Outcomes	Key outputs/deliverables
Site ide	ntification	Identified through 'Identif	ying Hub sites	' stage	
0	Scoping & design of codesign process	Identification of scope of co-design process (both building & model design) to set the parameters for co-design; design of process on basis of scoping and in collaboration with colleagues & consultants	3 months	Increased understanding of codesign scope Increased understanding of codesign outputs and outcomes	Co-design scope document Outline co-design process Communication materials
_	Production of building and model design outputs	Development of building and model design outputs through codesign activity (aligned with engagement approach): dependent on the size/status of project this may include additional (RIBA) stages.	3+ months	- Shared understanding of Community Hub ambitions between communities, partners & WCC - Increased understanding of/skills in design - Increased connections between residents, partners & WCC	- Building plans/options - Model design/options - Recommended option - Business case for Cabinet sign-off
option					
3	Procurement activity Delivery of work/s	Development of building/model options into tender documentation and procurement of contractors Delivery and completion of building works	TBC – dependent on site	N/A	Tender documentation Appointment of contractors for building works Identification of operator Community Hub space/s
4	Onboarding of operator	Onboarding of operator, including development of detailed deliverables, outcomes framework and reporting requirements	and plans 3 months	- Shared understanding of operator deliverables, outcomes, standards and requirements	- Operator contract - Outcomes and reporting framework
5	Handover	Handover of site to Council and/or operator ahead of launch	N/A	N/A	- Community Hub technical delivery process complete

Supporting activities

The following activities will underpin the engagement approach and technical delivery stages:

- a. <u>Communications & stakeholder management:</u> publicising the Community Hubs programme, sharing updates and keeping stakeholder informed and engaged.
- b. <u>Data & insight:</u> pulling together data, insight and analytical capabilities and resources to inform understanding, development, decision-making and reporting.
- c. <u>Service engagement:</u> working with colleagues across the Council to ensure alignment, collaboration and focus on the best experience for residents and communities.

3. Oversight of Community Hubs' operations

The Council aims to establish a network of Community Hubs across Westminster to better serve communities: it will be important to consider both the relationship between these hubs and other Council, statutory, VCS or community-run 'hubs', and to establish arrangements which enable their effective oversight, particularly given the expectation that they may be community or VCS-run.

The approach is likely to be shaped through the co-design of the first Community Hubs and their management/operator arrangements, however it will be important to ensure that a strategic view is developed to avoid a bit-piece approach which could result in a series of different oversight arrangements, resulting in difficulties managing risk, reporting, contracts and relationships.

This work needs to address:

- a. <u>'Docking'/management arrangements:</u> deciding which team or department in the Council is tasked with day to day management and oversight of Community Hub activities, and what arrangements are put in place to ensure that other teams have sight of/involvement in decision-making and management. For example, there are pros and cons of Community Hubs oversight sitting with the Communities department, Corporate Property or even based on the specific asset (e.g. the HRA). The benefits of certain approaches will outweigh others, but it will likely be necessary for all of the above to be consulted in certain circumstances.
- b. Oversight, governance and reporting requirements: identifying what the requirements are that prospective operators will need to be aware of and sign up to, whether in relation to governance and decision-making, management and operational reporting, or reporting on outcomes and activities.
- c. <u>Principles for review:</u> developing principles for reviewing Community Hub arrangements including individual/collective contracts and the wider programme, approach and reporting requirements. This should enable the Council to consolidate review activity and provide good lead-in times for decisions and any implications arising from them.

Ways of working

The Community Hubs programme should be delivered in alignment with #2035 and its ways of working, focused on creating equity through collaboration and a focus on delivery. The specific practices which support this have been developed with internal and external stakeholders and residents.

Listen	Connect		Accelerate	
 We value diversity and inclusion in everything we do. We seek to understand and address the challenges our communities face. We listen to feedback – from residents, partners and colleagues – and respond clearly and proactively. 	 We collaborate with our communities in shaping our services. We consult residents, partners and colleagues on their needs and preferences. We actively share data and information with our communities and partners, addressing barriers and working proactively to do so. We maximise collaboration and minimise competition and territoriality. 	 We celebrate the differences that make our communities rich and vibrant. We empower them to participate in decision-making processes that affect them. We showcase the achievements and innovations of our communities and partners. We promote positive and accurate information about our services. 	 We commit to acting with speed and efficiency. We align resources and activities where they are most needed, to deliver the best outcomes. We communicate clearly and openly about the purpose and benefits of our services. We challenge any misinformation or negative attitudes that may deter people from accessing them. 	

Stakeholders

List known stakeholders and their interest / involvement in the project:

Stakeholder	Connection to the project
Cabinet Members	Oversight and leadership of the programme
Ward councillors	Expertise in local hub areas
Corporate Property	Delivery on building improvements, capital projects and FM
Housing	Alignment between housing offices and co-location of housing support services
Libraries	Alignment between libraries and community hub offer/s
Resources	Alignment between assets, resources and financial implications of hubs
Imperial Health College NHS	Key partner on #2035
Trust	
One Westminster	Key partner for VCS engagement, capacity-building and support
Metropolitan Police	Statutory partner with interest in community sites
Hub-specific community	Community groups or key stakeholders attached to a specific community hub
partners	location
Hub-specific VCS partners	Voluntary sector partners attached to a specific community hub location

Deliverables

Deliverable name	Summary description
South Westminster Interim	A community hub in south Westminster providing access to services, support
Community Hub	and community connection, pending delivery of long-term hubs.
Central Westminster Interim	A community hub in south Westminster providing access to services, support
Community Hub	and community connection, pending delivery of long-term hubs.

Ernest Harriss House	A community hub in north Westminster providing access to services, support
Community Hub	and community connection, pending delivery of long-term hubs.
Bayswater Community Hub	A community hub in north Westminster providing access to services, support
	and community connection, pending delivery of long-term hubs.
Identification of future Hub	Identification of sites for network of community hubs across Westminster that
sites	are accessible, inclusive, co-designed and co-managed by local residents and
	organisations.
Delivery of future Hub/s	Delivery of community hubs on agreed sites across Westminster
identified	
Development of Hub/s offer	A range of services and support that are tailored to the needs and aspirations
	of each community, focusing on tackling health inequalities, improving access,
	strengthening civil society and the voluntary sector, and contributing to the
	council's EDI, climate emergency and financial commitments.
Development of Hub/s model	A community hub model that is data-led, learning-led, future-focused, holistic,
	human-centred and transparent, and that facilitates resources and support
	flowing to local organisations.
Development of Hub/s	A community hub governance structure that reflects collective leadership,
governance	partnership working, community ownership and accountability.
Development of Hubs	A community hub evaluation framework that measures the impact and value
evaluation	of the programme on the residents, communities, partners and the council.
Delivery of Hubs	A community hub communication strategy that raises awareness, promotes
communications	engagement, shares learning and showcases best practice.

Process Measures

Area	Description	Measure
Effective project	Compliance and adherence of the programme to	
management methodology	corporate project management standards and principles,	RAG rating
and governance	measured by Change Board reporting and feedback.	
Effective participation,	Compliance and adherence of the programme to the	Engagement
engagement and co-design	target engagement figures and practices, measured by	targets &
activity	progress reports and stakeholder feedback.	qualitative data
Delivery of milestones and	Completion and achievement of programme milestones	Programme
deliverables reflecting	and deliverables, measured by progress reports and	milestones &
community priorities	stakeholder feedback.	deliverables
Delivery of programme on	Variance and deviation of programme budget and	Resource plan
· · · ·	timeline from planned and expected values, measured by	compliance &
budget and timeline	financial reports, risk logs, and issue registers.	milestones
Stakeholder engagement and communication	Reach and impact of the programme engagement and communication activities, measured by engagement rates and communication analytics.	Reach & response figures
Monitoring, evaluation and learning activity	Frequency and quality of programme monitoring and evaluation activities, measured by monitoring reports, evaluation reports and feedback and learning loops.	Quality of learning & recommendations

Benefits

Please provide a summary of the **main** benefits (outcomes resulting from the outputs) associated with the investment.

Financial benefits

Benefit title	Benefit type & description		When will the benefit be
			realised?
Reduced service	Cost avoidance – preventative and early help support	TBC -	TBC -
delivery demand		dependent on	dependent on
		sites	sites
Increased support for	Cost avoidance – organisations able to generate		
local organisations from	income/leverage resources from non-council sources		
external sources			
savings and/or strategic	Cost saving or cost avoidance – operation of sites by VCS organisations rather than council-led delivery		
redeployment of	and/or consolidation/integration of services into sites		
resources			

Non-financial benefits

The table below outlines the benefits and associated measures which can be used as Key Performance Indicators and to inform evaluation, learning and improvement. It is presumed that there are four main activities to support this:

- Monthly reporting
- Service feedback
- City Survey (where applicable)
- End of year evaluation (comprising inputs from City Survey, bespoke surveys, semi-structured interviews and additional sources this will also incorporate values from all of the above)

Ber	nefit		Strategic alignment & description	Measure		Value / when will the benefit be realised?
1)	Mo	re resilient	#2035 & Fairer			TBC on basis of
	con	nmunities, focusing on	Communities:			specific sites
	tack	kling health	increased			and associated
	ine	qualities:	connection			projects
			and stronger			
	a)	Increase in	social	Level and % increase in no. of social	End of year	
		community	networks lead	contacts and new connections between	evaluation	
		connections and	to improved	hub users		
		social capital	opportunities			
			and outcomes			

	b)	Improvement in health and quality of life outcomes		Level and % increase in self-reported, locally identified (including service-specific*) health & wellbeing, happiness and/or life satisfaction scores	End of year evaluation + service feedback
	c)	Increase in community activity participants and hours		Level and % increase in no. of participants and no. of hours of community activities delivered	Monthly reporting
	d)	Uptake of employment skills, work experience and volunteering opportunities		Level and % increase in activities contributing to increased employability	End of year evaluation
2)		ter access to services support:			
	a)	Increase in footfall	#2035 & Fairer Communities: improved	Level and % increase in hub/s usage	Monthly reporting
	b)	Increase in service engagements*	access to	Level and % increase of engagements with services	Monthly reporting
	c)	Level/type of signpostings	informal sources of support and	Level and % increase/analysis of signpostings	Monthly reporting
	d)	Service delivery efficiencies	connection lead to improved health outcomes	Level of time savings for staff and residents in delivering/accessing services	End of year evaluation + service feedback
	e)	Improvement in customer satisfaction and feedback		Level and % increase in customer satisfaction scores, including on 'issue resolved'	Monthly reporting
3)	coll: WC	ctive, consistent aboration between C and our nmunities:	#2035 & Fairer Communities: better collaboration		
	a)	Increase in trust within/between communities and WCC	leads to increased uptake of services and support,	Level and % increase in trust within/between communities and WCC	End of year evaluation + City Survey
	b)	Increase in community representation and involvement in decision-making and management	maximises resources and improves the Council's understanding of/offer to communities	Level and % increase in community representation and involvement in community hub decision-making, management and governance	Monthly reporting

	c)	Increase in		Level and % increase in new	Monthly
	۷,	partnerships,			reporting
		collaborations and		, ,	
		joint projects			
4)	Stre	ngthening civil society			
	and	the voluntary sector:			
	a)	Increase in usage of			Monthly
		affordable space by	#2035 & Fairer		reporting
		community groups	Communities	capacity)	
		and VCS organisations	increased		
			connection,		
	b)	Increase in numbers	stronger social		Monthly
		and types of	networks and	diversity/type of organisations using hub	reporting
		organisations using	a resilient VCS	spaces	
		spaces	lead to		
	c)	Increase in	improved	Level or % increase in activities, events,	Monthly
	٠,	community activities,	opportunities		reporting
		events, projects and	and outcomes		
		initiatives			
	d)	Increase of support		Level and quality of support received by	·
		for local organisations		local organisations through hubs	evaluation
5)		vely contributing to			
		EDI, climate			
		ergency and financial			
	com	nmitments:			
	٠,١		#2035 & Fairer	Level and % increase in users, volunteers	Monthly
	a)	Increase of diversity			reporting
		and representation in participation and	1110011118	underrepresented or marginalised	reporting
		delivery of	corporate commitments	_	
		programmes	improves our		
		• =	understanding,		
	b)	Increase of	offer.	Level and % decrease of emissions,	TBC
	•	environmental	organisational	energy, water and waste saved or	
		sustainability and	resilience and	reduced by community hubs compared	
		carbon reduction of	long-term	to conventional buildings and operations	
		spaces and	impact	(specific carbon reduction and/or energy	
		operations		efficiency measures to be refined)	
NIC	C	alaa fimamaial kawafi			
		also financial benefits			
sect	ion.				

^{*}It is presumed that service engagements act as an entry point and proxy to service outputs/outcomes. The role of a community should be to support improved resident outcomes through, where appropriate, access to services. It will be necessary for onsite services to feed into monitoring activity with their outputs/outcomes.

Assumptions

Assumption name	Summary description
Shared vision and support	The programme has the support and commitment of Westminster City Council and its partners, including public service providers, community groups and local residents, and that they share a common vision and purpose for the community hubs.
Resources & capabilities	The programme has the necessary resources and capabilities to deliver the community hubs, including the funding, staff, contractors and equipment, and that they are allocated and managed efficiently and effectively.
Permissions & approvals	The programme has the appropriate permissions and approvals to proceed with the community hubs, including the planning, legal and regulatory aspects, and that they are obtained and maintained in a timely and compliant manner.
Effective risk management	The programme has adequate risk management and contingency plans to deal with any potential challenges or uncertainties that may arise during project implementation, and that they are communicated and implemented proactively and collaboratively.
Data & information	The programme has the relevant data and information to monitor and evaluate the community hubs, including the baseline, indicators and methods, and that they are collected and analysed rigorously and ethically.

Constraints

Constraint	Impact				
Operational	The project involves the coordination of multiple services, partners, and				
	locations, which poses significant operational challenges. There may be				
	difficulties in finding suitable sites, recruiting and retaining staff, managing				
	contracts and agreements, ensuring quality and standards, and delivering				
	services effectively and efficiently. This could affect the quality and				
	accessibility of the hubs and their ability to meet the needs and expectatio				
	of the community. To mitigate this risk, the project team should establish cl				
	roles and responsibilities, communicate regularly and transparently, adopt				
	best practices and lessons learned, and evaluate and improve performance				
	continuously.				
Financial	The project depends on securing sufficient funding from various sources,				
	including the council, the government, and external partners. However, the				
	funding landscape is uncertain and subject to change, especially in light of the				
	COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact. This could result in funding				
	shortfalls, gaps, or delays that could compromise the viability and				
	sustainability of the hubs. To mitigate this risk, the project team should				
	diversify the funding sources, monitor the budget closely, and seek alternative				
	or contingency options if needed.				
Legal	The project may face legal challenges from existing service providers,				
	landlords, or local residents who oppose the changes or claim damages. This				
	could delay or disrupt the implementation of the hubs and increase the costs				

of litigation and settlement. To mitigate this risk, the project team should conduct thorough stakeholder engagement, ensure compliance with relevant regulations and contracts, and seek legal advice where necessary.

Risks

Risk name	Description	Mitigation	Impact score (4)	Likelihoo d score (4)	Total score
Stakeh older Resista nce	The programme may encounter resistance or opposition from some stakeholders, including within the council, who may have different views or interests regarding the community hubs, which may affect their engagement, propensity to collaborate and/or satisfaction levels.	The programme should conduct a stakeholder analysis and develop a communication and engagement plan to address the concerns and expectations of different stakeholder groups. The programme should also seek to involve the stakeholders in the co-design and co-delivery of the community hubs, and to demonstrate the benefits and value of the project. The programme should make swift and effective use of governance mechanisms to resolve barriers and problems.	3	4	12
Budget Issues	The programme may experience cost overruns or budget shortfalls due to the complexity and uncertainty of the project scope and requirements, which may require the prioritisation or reduction of some features or functions; or as a result of wider organisational financial constraints and perspectives, which inhibit effective resourcing.	The programme should establish a clear and realistic scope and budget for the projects, and monitor and control the expenditure and variances throughout the project lifecycle. The programme should also conduct regular reviews and audits to identify and address any risks or issues that may affect the cost performance. The programme should also explore alternative funding sources or partnerships to supplement the budget, and ensure that Finance colleagues are involved in governance, planning and delivery.	2	4	8
Quality Issues	The programme may suffer quality issues or performance gaps due to the lack of coordination or integration among public service providers, community groups and other stakeholders, which may affect the delivery or outcomes of the services.	The programme should establish a quality management system and a performance measurement framework to ensure that the community hubs meet the standards and expectations of the users and the stakeholders. The programme should also facilitate the collaboration and coordination among the service providers and the community groups, and provide training and support to enhance their skills and capabilities.	2	2	4

Benefit Realisa tion	The programme may fail to realise the expected benefits or outcomes due to insufficient demand or uptake of the community hubs by the local residents, or by a lack of coordination and collaboration within the council and/or with partners, which may affect the sustainability or viability of the project.	The programme should conduct a market analysis and a user needs assessment to understand the preferences and behaviours of the local residents, and to design the community hubs accordingly. The programme should also implement a marketing and promotion strategy to raise the awareness and interest of the potential users, and to encourage their participation and feedback. The programme should also evaluate the impact and value of the community hubs on the social and economic outcomes of the local area.	2	3	6
Total			9	13	30

Dependencies

Dependency	Owner	Impacts on	Criticality 1 (low) to
			5 (high)
#2035	Shama Sutar-	The Community Hubs programme is one of the	5
	Smith / Vanessa	programmes that deliver the ambitions set out in the	
	Guthrie	#2035 movement. Ensure alignment and close	
		collaboration.	
Climate emergency	Amy Jones /	Council-wide effort to embed climate action across the	4
agenda	Amanda	organisation and help the council reach its net zero	
	Chandler	target (corporate estate retrofit programme, carbon	
		impact assessment for capital projects). Work closely	
		with our Environment colleagues to look at	
		opportunities to make a positive impact through our	
		programme of works.	
Corporate property	Claire Nangle	Work with our CP colleagues to align with the	4
strategy		corporate property strategy regarding consolidation of	
		assets and new asset acquisitions, particularly when	
		identifying suitable permanent sites for CHs.	
Family Hubs & Early	Sarah Newman	Work with our Children's Service and related	3
Help	& Madhu	colleagues to ensure that community hubs	
	Chauhan	complement Family Hubs, align with their offer and	
		operate as part of their pathways and partnerships.	
Housing service	Chris	Work with our Housing colleagues to ensure that on	
centre openings Shoubridge		appropriate sites community hubs are developed with	
		Housing and to enable a joined-up service for	
		residents.	

Library strategy	Leanne Bellot	Work with our Libraries colleagues to explore the	4
development		crossover, complementarity and shared use of library	
		spaces through piloting interim Community Hubs in	
		library sites.	
North Paddington	Sarah Crampton	Close collaboration with our NP programme colleagues	5
Programme	/ Gillian Jones	is essential to ensure alignment. Hubs in the north,	
		particularly Ernest Harriss House hub, can deliver some	
		of the outcomes of the NP programme.	
Pimlico place-based	Nick Saunders	Our interim hub in the south of the borough can	4
programme		deliver some of the outcomes of the Pimlico	
		programme.	

Resources

The following resource plan identifies a proposed outlay on the basis of 18 months (September 2023 to March 2025) inclusive (it does not include any resources used prior to this period). It should be revised on completion of the site identification process, and regularly as the delivery capacity and operational costs for programme delivery and Hub revenue costs become clearer.

Job Title	No.	FTE	Start Date	End Date
Programme Lead	1	Υ	09/23	08/25
Engagement & Participation Lead	1	Y	09/23	08/25
Apprentice	1	Y	09/23	12/24
Area Delivery Lead	3	Y	04/24	03/25
Area Community Organiser	3	Y	04/24	03/25
Operational Design Lead	1	Y	04/24	03/25
Project Support Officer	1	Y	04/24	03/25

Delivery costs and related activities associated with each Community Hub, as well as the cost of staffing and operations for each Hub, will be developed on a case by case basis for review and sign-off in line with the Council's protocols.

Headline programme

The Community Hubs Delivery Plan can be accessed <u>here</u>.



City of Westminster

Hub sites

- NorthBayswater Children's CentreErnest Harriss House

Central • Charing Cross Library

South
• Victoria Library

