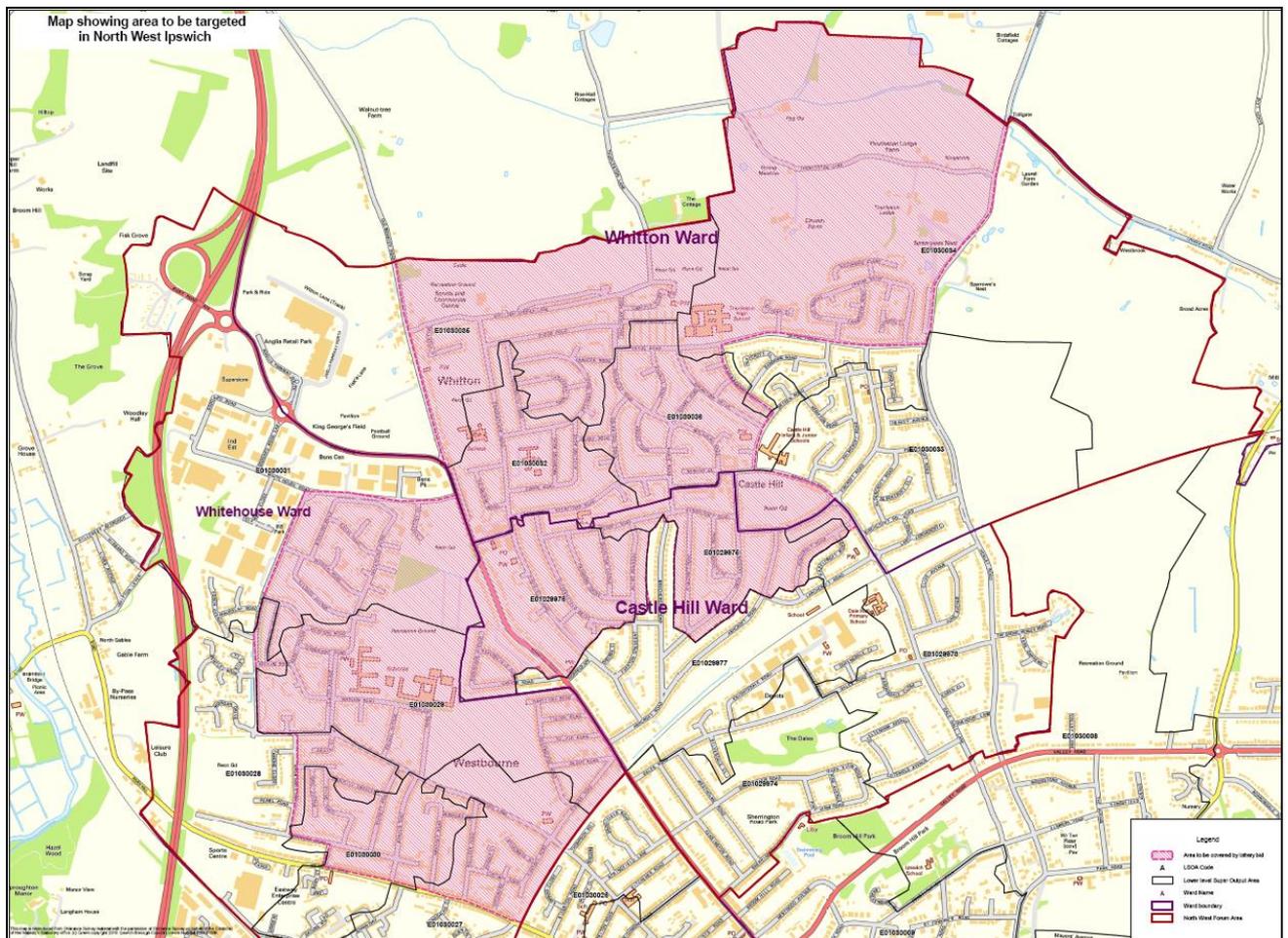




LOTTERY FUNDED

North West Ipswich Big Local Trust Partnership (NWI BLTP)

Big Local Plan 2014 – 2018



**North West Ipswich Big Local Trust Partnership
Big Local Plan 2012 -2018
Plan Refresh 2014**

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Foreword by the Chair

The team of residents and advisers in the North West Ipswich Big Local Trust look back with some satisfaction on progress with the first year of our Big Local Plan. We are pleased with a number of major achievements and with the amount we have learned over this time. We are so grateful to Leah Douglas, our first Officer for what she helped us to accomplish, especially her key role in the Big Event, and also to Hannah Bradley, our second Officer who made a further significant contribution to moving us forward. We also thank Jan Cole, our Big Local Rep, for excellent advice and support. The plan, so far, would not have been implemented without the dedication and sacrifice of the whole Partnership group.

So now we move on, the forty or so grants we have made, and other applications received, have shown us many ways in which the community can develop ideas, It has also revealed a number of things that organisations have not been applying to do and for which we will have to find providers if they are going to happen. So procurement is a big part of the refreshed plan. We are also on the verge of exciting moves in social investment and the development of local facilities. Another big change is that we are extending our priority groups to include our older residents as well as the young, even events that bring them together.

I commend this plan to you and hope that those of you who are “North Westers “ will be keen to join us or become involved in some way in making real improvements in our community.

Ron Impey, Chair
North West Ipswich Big Local Trust Partnership

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Introduction

What is Big Local?

It is a Big Lottery Fund (BIG) programme to support 150 areas across England. Each area receives advice and support to make it an even better place to live, underpinned by £1million of Lottery funding. There is 10 years to spend the funding and the 'plan' must be decided by local people. The Big Local programme is run by Local Trust, supported by a range of partner organisations.

North West Ipswich Area

The area of Whitehouse, Whitton and Castle Hill was one of the first 50 areas to be selected by BIG for the Big Local Programme: the award of £1 million to this area was announced in July 2010. As can be seen on the front cover, the area does not follow the ward boundaries so it is now referred to as North West Ipswich.

Getting People Involved and Drafting the Plan

The essential element of Big Local is that it is run by local people, for local people. The first step was therefore to find a group of residents to form a People's Panel who would take a lead on the project and draw up a Big Local Plan for the area. BIG and Local Trust provided funding, in addition to the £1million, to support this initial stage. During the summer of 2011, a promotional campaign undertaken by Ipswich CVS attracted 24 local people. Supported by Leah Douglas, the residents organised a Stars and Stakeholders Event (06/12/11), a young people's Visioning Event (14/03/12) and a postcard survey of opinions about the area. The information gathered was used to create a draft plan. The consultation on the draft plan closed in June 2012. After amendment it was submitted to Local Trust in August 2012 and approved in October 2012.

Formation of the Partnership

North West Ipswich Big Local Trust Partnership (NWIBLTP) is a body which was formed from the People's Panel in July 2012. It comprises 24 resident members and up to 19 advisory members. The resident members (9 Whitehouse, 9 Whitton and 6 Castle Hill) make all the decisions: they devise the plan, agree activities and determine how the funding will be used. The advisory members provide knowledge and expertise to the partnership to help them in their decision making.

Support

The Partnership selects a Big Local Rep (contracted by Local Trust) and a Locally Trusted Organisation (LTO) to support them. Community Action Suffolk is the partnership's LTO. It administers funds and managers staff on behalf of the partnership.

View our NW Ipswich BLT website: www.nwipswichblt.co.uk



Follow us on facebook: North West Ipswich Big Local Trust



Follow us on twitter: @NWipswichBLT

The Big Local Plan 2012 - 2015

Our first plan was approved by Local Trust in October 2012 and covers the three year period 1st October 2012 to 30th September 2015. The full plan is on the website

Our Vision for North West Ipswich:

To bring real improvements to the community and to the lives of people living in it.

Our Aspirations for North West Ipswich

When the sun sets on North West Ipswich in ten years' time, we want our community to be:

- A more cohesive community, which brings together the three wards of Whitton, Whitehouse and Castle Hill, breaking down the barriers between each and promoting a positive image for the NW Ipswich area as a whole.
- A place where people are more engaged, with better networks, improved communications between people living locally and where an increased dialogue with service providers is taking place, enabling services to be better tailored to meet local need
- A place where the aspirations of young people are high and where investing in potential to develop new skills and create new opportunities, will provide a platform to showcase their capabilities
- A place where older people, people with disabilities and vulnerable people are considered and valued, where the barriers of social isolation no longer exist
- A place where younger and older generations can live side by side with mutual respect, appreciating the value that both can bring to a community
- A place where community facilities are thriving and well used, providing a range of activities for all ages, faiths and cultures
- A place which encourages people to be involved, participate and take ownership, forging a strong community spirit and a sense of pride in our surroundings
- A place where financial exclusion is reduced
- A place where people live happy, healthy lives

Our Objectives for North West Ipswich

Objective 1: To bring people together from across the area to socialise, learn and develop new skills

Objective 2: To enable people to develop mechanisms to increase participation to better influence the provision of services

Objective 3: To work in collaboration with parents to develop skills and knowledge, which provide improved support for their children

Objective 4: To support young people to realise their full potential, increasing their life chances

Objective 5: To provide the necessary support to older people to tackle social isolation, maintaining physical and mental health

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Objective 6: To increase interaction between older and younger people living in the NW Ipswich area

Objective 7: To increase the use of existing community facilities to provide a diverse and interesting menu of activities, which all members of the community can participate in

Objective 8: To increase the engagement and participation of people living and working in the NW Ipswich area, in community activity

Objective 9: To reduce high interest doorstep lending by providing access to alternative, reputable, value for money financial services

Objective 10: To encourage healthy lifestyles through a variety of approaches to reduce the risks of ill health

Our Focus for the first 18 months

Supporting Young People

Through community chest and grant awards scheme funding

Bringing the Community Together

Through the Big Local Event (procurement in table below)

Making available affordable personal loans and alternative financial services

Through investment in Ipswich and Suffolk Credit Union (social investment in table below)

Strengthening the partnership

Through training, networking and resident member involvement in activities

Forecast Budget for the first 18 months and amounts drawn down

Period	Months 1-6	Months 7-12	Months 13-18	Total Budget	Amount drawn from the £1million
	01/10/12 to 31/03/13	01/04/13 to 30/09/13	01/10/13 to 31/03/14		
	£000s	£000s	£000s		
Partnership running costs	19	19	19	57	57
Social Investment	20	20	30	70	0
Procurement	10	10	20	40	10
Community Chest	5	10	5	20	20
Grant Awards Scheme	20	20	20	60	40
Total	74	79	94	247	127

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Achievements in the first 18 months

Supporting Young People

A total of £11,874 has been distributed in Community Chest awards. There have been 34 grants to 30 different community groups in our area to support projects such as steel band workshops, contributions to annual camps, toys and equipment for local groups. The total value of the projects is £25,380, the difference of £13,506 being the value of volunteer time and other sources of funding. In total 2,028 people have directly benefitted from activities provided by these grants.

A total of £33,522 has been distributed in grant scheme awards. The total value of the projects is £49,563, the difference of £16,041 being the value of volunteer time and other funding. Five projects have been funded: Supported Volunteering and Work experience for young disabled people; Football Programme for young people; Come and Try Cycle Speedway for all the family; Healthy Well Being For young people; Rock School Music Programme for young people.

The majority of awards relate to projects supporting young people in the North West Ipswich area. Details of the funds distributed up to 31st March 2014, are shown in a separate report.

Bringing the Community Together

A Big Local Event was held at Whitehouse Park in September 2013. The event was attended by 1500 people. 25 local groups had stalls to promote their activities, 15 groups performed. There were 13 craft stalls, 20 quiz entries, 115 entries to the horticultural show and 2000 seed packets given away. It was lovely to see local people meeting up and just enjoying the day.

The Event mainly contributed towards the priority of 'Bringing the Community Together'. However it also helped with the following aims:

- Showcasing activities in the Big Local Area – raising awareness of local choirs and bands, crafts people, allotment societies, sports opportunities, groups that meet at the local community centres, and other Ipswich based organisations.
- Encouraging / increasing active involvement in our community – members of existing organisations were involved in running activities at the event or were recruited as marshalls, litter pickers etc. Attendees were encouraged to try taster sessions of new activities or to join local societies.
- Promoting North West Ipswich BLT through local press and other publicity, 1200 programmes distributed, and merchandise given away.

Making available affordable personal loans and alternative financial services

After preliminary discussions with Ipswich and Suffolk Credit Union (ISCU), it was agreed in May 2013 to allocate up to £40,000 for a Social Investment project. Since that time, a due diligence process has been undertaken. Small Change (a partner organisation of Local Trust) recommended investment in ISCU in January 2014 and discussions are underway to finalise a contract. North West Ipswich will be the first Big Local partnership to invest in a credit union.

Strengthening the partnership

As resident members of the partnership, we have gained in skills and confidence through our involvement in Big Local. The Community Stars recruited in the early stages have received training and encouragement from Leah Douglas, the BLT officer who has supported us from the outset. Involvement in the Big Local Event fostered team working amongst partnership members and has provided the impetus for some of us to take on more responsibility for activities. Leah moved to a new job at end of February 2014 and will be greatly missed. We have now recruited a new officer, Hannah Bradley, to support us with delivery of our Refreshed Big Local Plan.

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Reflections on progress to date

We have assessed our progress to date by undertaking a review of our partnership and of our plan. The review process is set out in a separate report.

Summary of what has worked well

- The Big Event
- Distribution of Grant Funding (and learning about what makes a good application)
- Supporting projects to provide opportunities for young people
- Formation of a strong partnership, working as a team

and where we could do more

- Get more people and groups involved, find out what they are doing
- Raise awareness of BLT
- Do more for ourselves / Do things differently
- Start to address some of the other plan objectives

Receipts and Payments to 31st March 2014 are as follows:

Period	Getting People Involved	Months 1 to 6	Months 7 to 12	Months 13 to 18	Total
	01/07/11 to 30/09/12	01/10/12 to 31/03/13	01/04/13 to 30/09/13	01/10/13 to 31/03/14	
	£	£	£	£	
Balance brought forward	0	2780	57832	30029	0

RECEIPTS

Funding for initial stages	36500				36,500
Drawn down from the £1million		74,000	29000	24000	127,000
Grant funds from other sources	9800		2,900		12,700
Income from activities	3672	60	932		4664
Total	49972	74060	32832	24000	180864

PAYMENTS

Consultation and set up	43011				43011
Partnership Support		15580	16768	16770	49118
Big Local Event		40	10345	3263	13648
Community Chest	4181	3388		4305	11874
Grant Awards Scheme			33522		33522
Total	47192	19008	60635	24338	151173

Balance held by LTO	2780	57832	30029	29691	29691
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Remainder of our £1million not drawn down (at 31 March 2014)	873,000
which includes approved budget not drawn down (re Social Investment)	40,000

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Moving forward – action plan for the next 18 months

Partnership Support

Our new Support Officer is in post until April 2015. The officer will support the resident members in setting up a new partnership structure for development and delivery of projects. Themed sub groups will be established: each group will have terms of reference and a delegated budget (see below). A need for further training is anticipated, particularly on marketing & publicity, engagement of young people, and the acquisition and management of community buildings. The level of officer support beyond April 2015 will need to be assessed by the partnership at the start of 2015.

Social Investment

A contract will be signed in summer 2014 by Local Trust and Ipswich and Suffolk Credit Union (now trading as Eastern Savings & Loans) securing an investment of £20,000 in a Corporate Savings Account and a £5,000 grant to raise awareness, train volunteers and increase the number of savers as well as providing access to affordable loans. The partnership will monitor progress via quarterly reports and consider further investment in Eastern Savings & Loans in a year's time. Social investment in a Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI), to support small business and social enterprise, will also be explored with the aim to enter into a contract in summer 2015.

Community Chest

We will continue to operate this small grants scheme to provide funds for projects meeting any of our Plan objectives. Community Chest became a rolling programme, with assessments and decisions at monthly partnership meetings, from January 2014. In autumn 2014 we will review the process for applications and assessments and make any necessary changes.

Grant Awards Scheme

The current round of this annual grant scheme was launched in May 2014 with a total of £40,000 to address objectives 4, 5 and 6 i.e. support young people, support older people and inter-generational activities. The Grant Awards Scheme process for 2015 will be reviewed this autumn and changes made as necessary.

Publicity and Promotion

A Publicity and Promotion Task & Finish Group has been meeting weekly since February 2014 and has set out the following actions:

- Meet quarterly as the editorial team for our communication channels;
- Produce a quarterly newsletter that will report on the last quarter's news and events and look forward to the next quarter;
- Organise "meet and greet" events with community group leaders to get our name out there and to enable development of joint projects between groups;
- Redesign the existing website and launch by the end of Summer 2014;
- Get the local area news reporter on board;

The group is purchasing promotional materials including a pop up banner and business cards.

Project Development

Three themed sub groups will be set up to develop projects around the priority areas identified during the plan review process. The themes will be:

- Young people. This group will organise another visioning event for young people to ascertain their needs and aspirations. Potential projects include pursuing the outdoor gym ideas presented by Ormiston Endeavour Academy, and supporting local sports and cultural activities.
- Older people. Potential projects include a community allotment project, a lunch club and an oral history project. Some of these projects will be intergenerational, bringing younger and older residents together for environmental and cultural activities.
- Community Centre. This group will explore the opportunity to acquire and manage Whitehouse Community Centre as a hub for community activity.

Each sub group will have a budget to hold meetings, undertake research and carry out consultations. The sub groups will present proposals to the partnership for agreement to deliver the projects.

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Project Delivery

The provision of a Skate Park is being led by Ipswich Borough Council. Groundwork has undertaken consultation and site feasibility studies, to be followed this summer 2014 by a design stage and funding bids. The partnership has provisionally agreed to allocate some funding towards the cost of building a skate park.

As outlined above, other projects will be developed within the new partnership structure for delivery in 2015 and beyond. The aim will be to use BLT money to lever in funding from other sources wherever possible.

Moving forward - time plan for the next 18 months

Task	Target date
Expression of interest to Ipswich BC re Whitehouse Community Centre	May 2014
Social Investment Contract signed by ISCU and Local Trust	June 2014
New partnership structure and sub groups established	July 2014
First Community Newsletter distributed	July 2014
Website redesigned and launched	Aug 2014
Review processes for Community Chest and Grant Awards Scheme	Oct 2014
Second Community Newsletter distributed	Oct 2014
Complete feasibility studies / business plan for Whitehouse Community Centre	Nov 2014
Consider level of partnership support needed for 2015/16	Jan 2015
Third Community Newsletter distributed	Jan 2015
Building of skate park commenced	Mar 2015
Fourth Community Newsletter distributed	April 2015
Initial investment in Whitehouse Community Centre renovation	May 2015
Social investment contract signed by CDFI and Local Trust	July 2015
Fifth Community Newsletter distributed	July 2015
Review contract with Eastern Savings & Loans (ISCU) and consider additional investment	Sep 2015
Delivery of initial projects developed by sub groups	Sep 2015

Longer Term Plan

Our Ambition

The North West Ipswich community will be self-sufficient through capacity building;

The BLT partnership will be sustainable beyond the first 10 years;

The BLT partnership will be a legally independent as a Community Interest Organisation or similar;

There will be wide participation in local activities.

Our Aims - beyond September 2015

- The cost of partnership support will be covered by external funds levered in.
- Work will begin on becoming a 'body corporate' (having a recognised legal form).
- Local needs and objectives will be reviewed: research and consultation will be undertaken.
- Social investment opportunities will continue to be actively explored.
- Funds distributed through community chest and grant awards scheme will continue to be monitored to see which plan objectives are being met; projects will be developed to fill the gaps.
- Projects developed in Years 2 and 3 will be delivered.
- A second Big Local Event will be considered.

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Forecast Budget to 2018

Period		Remainder Year 2	Year 3		Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
		01/04/14 to 30/09/14	01/10/14 to 31/03/15	01/04/15 to 30/09/15	01/10/15 to 30/09/16	01/10/16 to 30/09/17	01/10/17 to 30/09/18
		£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Partnership support		15	15	15	15	15	15
Social Investment		25 ¹		40		20	
Community Chest		5	5	5	10	10	10
Grant Awards Scheme		40	20	20	40	40	40
Publicity and Promotion		3	1	1	1	1	1
Project Development	Young People	2	2	2			
	Older People	2	2	2			
	Community Centre	1	10	5			
	Other				2	2	2
Project Delivery			110	45	45	15	15
Total ²		93	165	135	114	103	83

What's left of our area's £1m after this period	780	615	480	366	263	180
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¹ £40,000 was approved in Year 1 for social investment but not drawn down. £25000 is likely to be drawn down in Year 2.

² The forecast budget totals are for all projected expenditure. External funding will be sought for project development and project delivery which may reduce the amount required to be drawn down.