

Temporary cover page

East Cleveland Villages Big Local

Plan 2021 to 2026

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Foreword

The Big Local is a unique, long-term resident led programme for investment in local communities. This is the plan for how the East Cleveland Villages Big Local Partnership intends to draw down and invest its final phase of National Lottery funding. This is the third and final plan that the East Cleveland Villages Big Local has produced. It follows on from plans made in 2014 and 2016.

In drafting this plan, the Big Local residents' partnership has consulted very widely within the area and learned from the experience of the previous plans. This has been a difficult process because the later stages have also come at the time when we have all been facing the massive challenge of Covid 19. But we have managed to hold on-line workshops and conversations. The result is that we are confident that this is a plan of action that residents want and local communities need. We have seen the pandemic bring out the best in local people and communities and we hope that that spirit of togetherness can carry forward when the pandemic is finally over.

With this plan, we want to reboot the work of the ECVBL. We want to concentrate more on supporting communities to do things for themselves and less on simply making grants to local organisations. We have also looked at how we operate. We want to be more open and to communicate better. We have dropped our previous rather cumbersome system of village 'delegates' and to develop resident leadership, we are inviting district councillors this time to be supporters rather than members of our partnership.

We hope that you will find this plan an interesting read. We always welcome input and ideas and we allow some flexibility as circumstances change. We trust that all local residents and organisations will feel able to support and contribute to our continued work.

The ECVBL Partnership
December 2020

Background to Big Local and Local Trust

The Big Local is a programme funded by the National Lottery ending no later than March 2026. Its aim is to achieve lasting change in 150 areas in England. The Local Trust was developed as a place-based funding charity to support Big Local Programmes make their areas better places to live, now and in the future.

In contrast to conventional top down, time-limited, project-led funding, the funding awarded to each Big Local area was provided on the basis that it can be spent over 10-15 years at the communities' own chosen pace, and on their own plans and priorities.

Big Local was established with a number of core key features that make it different from other programmes. It is:

- *Long term* – providing certainty and continuity, over 10-15 years
- *Resident-led* – working directly with individuals living, working, studying and playing in areas rather than through organisations; building confidence and capacity amongst those wanting to make a difference to their community and their local area
- *Non-prescriptive* – enabling residents to spend on their own terms and in their own time, on the projects they judge to be most important to them
- *Patient and non-judgemental* – giving communities the time and opportunity to learn, make mistakes, resolve disagreements and overcome challenges for themselves, on their way to achieving their ambitions
- *Accompanied by flexible and responsive support* – to help communities to build the confidence and capability to make the most of the opportunities available to them, whilst not constraining their own ambition and initiative

Each Partnership is supported by a **Big Local Rep** and a **Locally Trusted Organisation (LTO)** both of which the Partnership has some decision making over. As it was not expected that the partnerships would have bank accounts, be able to process invoices or deliver lots of activities a trusted organisation with the appropriate skills and structures in place are brought in to do this on our behalf. In our case we have been ably supported by Tees Valley Rural Action (formerly Tees Valley rural Community Council) as Our LTO since we formed. It is important to remember that **DECISIONS** are made by the partnership and **ADMINISTRATION** of those decisions are usually carried out by our Locally Trusted Organisation.

Introduction to ECVBL

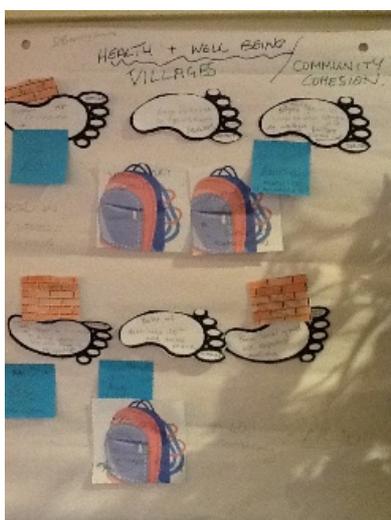
The East Cleveland Villages Big Local area was chosen by the Lottery to include 11 villages, Boosbeck, Carlin How, Charltons, Dunsdale, Easington, Lingdale, Liverton Mines, Loftus, Margrove Park, New Skelton, Skinningrove.



In 2012 our partnership, East Cleveland Villages Big Local, was one of the first to receive Big Local Funding. Following the Big Local ethos and values; that **residents themselves identify and act on their own needs**; work began in consulting residents, local organisations, community groups and workers to collect local concerns which could be identified as our plan priorities for support as well as raise awareness of Big Local.

Plan development is guided by the four overall aims or ‘outcomes’ of the Big Local Programme.

Everything that the East Cleveland Villages Big Local does continues to be aimed at and measured against these 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.

As an unconnected area with little local profile, it was really important that all the identified areas felt their voices were being heard. As our then Chair John Stockwell, explained in our last plan:- At the time the ‘one village – one vote’ structure had been agreed to give smaller communities a voice; - whereas previously they were disadvantaged compared to larger centres of population.”

The Partnership Board accepted that it would always be difficult to bring the villages together as with most rural areas, communities tend to be very self-sufficient and often more inward looking for their own solutions. This is of course a fabulous skill which needs to be used to join up the area and give a louder voice to East Cleveland developing the vision statement: “East Cleveland Villages Big Local Partnership are working together through the Big Local programme to improve opportunities and facilities within the area.”

Our values as a Big Local partnership are:

- The continuous involvement of residents to ensure they lead the programme
- The continued development of the accountable local partnership, the majority of members of which are local residents
- A culture of contribution to longer term changes in the area
- A commitment to building people's skills, confidence and capacity
- Shared learning within the Big Local area and with other Big Local areas
- A programme which is flexible, realistic, deliverable and fair
- A programme which will not replace main-stream publicly funded services.
- New ideas and suggestions for action have been gathered by continued consultation

Big Local Partnerships are made up of at least eight people, with 51% of members living within the area, who apply equal opportunities and inclusion to guiding the overall direction, delivery and development of the agreed plan and spend.

Our partnership governing body drew residents from the area who are expected to:

- continue to provide information and advice about day-to-day quality of life in the area
- actively encourage local people to play their part in supporting Big Local and its activities
- provide regular feedback and a clear steer on priorities.

Non-residents, involved in the Partnership are expected to:

- provide relevant advice, knowledge and expertise to Big Local
- actively review and be an advocate for Big Local with a view to gaining additional impact from the activities of their parent organisation or other bodies
- be committed to equal opportunities and inclusion
- report as appropriate, progress from within their organisation which illustrates evidence of changing practice and policy that is benefitting or is likely to benefit Big Local.



This is the third plan for the East Cleveland Villages Big Local Partnership and will take us to the end of the programme. **The initial budget for the area was £1m which, with careful investment**

by Local Trust, rose to £1.2m. Of this £385k remains and must be spent by March 2026, the official programme end date, with any unspent money at this point being returned to the Local Trust.

The original plan was for the period covering 2014-2016 with the second plan running 2016-2020. This last plan for East Cleveland Villages Big Local replaces and builds on the work of previous plans having the advantage and understanding of:

- Changes that have taken place in the area since we began
- Progress we have already made
- An opportunity to review and learn

An action plan is included which gives a more detailed outline for the next 3 years between 2020 and 2023. This allows for the following years to consolidate any legacy (ongoing organisations and/or work), respond to new developments as well as the closing down of the programme.

Impact and Achievements to date

During the first plan the ECVBL Partnership was committed to build on what was already there during a very frugal time for the voluntary and community sector, therefore monies were allocated to local village halls and community forums for fun days and luncheon clubs to encourage connectivity and intervillage support.

There were also good ideas to explore such as a housing project on the former Lingdale Tavern Site in response to the lack of dwellings available for single individuals and a feasibility report was commissioned. Although the feasibility study did not recommend further work by the Partnership, **the impact** was that a local housing association then picked up the gap and built more single dwelling accommodation.

Other examples of spend from the first plan was funding to support the building of a MUGA (multi-use games area) at Boosbeck and the purchase of a minibus which was donated to Skinningrove Link Up in support of the community transport sector. This minibus provided an essential shuttle service for school children, workers and access to mainstream services in 2014 when the bridge into the village was deemed unsafe.

Reviewing the plans in a consistent way is essential to identify impact and achievements. The first review saw the priorities condensed into 5 from 10:-

- Communities Together
- Employment, Training and Enterprise
- Local Business Development
- Tourism
- Access to Services

The area has never been short of new ideas, but the partnership seemed to get trapped into grant giving during the second plan phase. This was positive in that every East Cleveland Big Local

Village has organisations and projects which have received financial support from ECVBL – a total of £136,793 invested through such as Brownies, Christmas Panto, Village Notice Boards, Scarecrow Festival, defibrillator projects and exercise programmes.

There have also been some new and successful developments as ECVBL has taken risks to try out new things in response to identified needs. These include such as the Routes to Employment project, East Cleveland Good Neighbours, The Klondike Bike Race as well as a cross village exercise programme. ECVBL has also created and contributed to the development of local jobs including a Tourism Officer and Community Development Officer amongst others. The partnership continues to fund the support officer to East Cleveland Good Neighbours.

The Routes to Employment Programme - a partnership project with Redcar and Cleveland Council, based in Skinningrove. Their final report to the Big Local in March 2020, showed a total of 404 registrations with 113 undertaking training and 155 into work. The project worked with local employers, keeping up to date with their needs and putting people from the ECVBL communities before them. There were registrations from every ECVBL village except Dunsdale. Whilst positive feedback from some of the ECVBL participants has been collected the programme was not locally viewed as an ECVBL Project but seen more as a stand-alone or Local Authority provision.



The Klondike Grand Prix was to run as a pilot for 2 years funded by East Cleveland Villages Big Local. In the end ECVBL funded the race for 3 years 2017 to 2019 as evidence demonstrated there was an appetite for the event both within the community, British Cycling UK and Velo29. In partnership with Velo29 and British Cycling UK, ECVBL developed the circuit which was described as ‘one of attrition, favouring the strong rider’. The events attracted many visitors as well as promoting the area.

Villages and residents were engaged in organising artwork and activities as part of their involvement and this raised awareness of ECVBL across the area. The Klondike had quickly become a well-established early season classic in the British Cycling UK calendar of events. As ECVBL were committed to the sustainability of the Klondike, they involved many partners and stakeholders as well as holding



discussions to find more sponsors. Its impact in the area as part of the Velo29 Events Calendar cannot be underestimated and whilst not in a position to continue to fund the event, ECVBL are committed to supporting Velo29 in any of their future bids for ongoing funding.

Learning from this event, the Partnership quickly understood that the sum of the parts is greater than the whole. The parts to bring the Klondike together ranged from event management, raising the funds, engaging the community, recruiting the volunteer marshals, amongst others. Despite having the lead event management company, Velo29, as one of the partners, ECVBL wanted to be involved in every element required to make the Klondike happen and the success that it became. The thinking behind this was to learn more transferrable event management skills. The reality demonstrated that their volunteer capacity was limited to the point where two or three of the Partnership members reached the stage of 'burn out'.

Although business development was not a major priority, there have been some successes such as **Café Creations**, which was initially supported by the partnership and is still serving the local community from Unit 28C, Skelton Industrial Estate. The initial idea was to offer training within the catering/hospitality sector as



there was no such offer in the BL Area. Discussions had taken place with Routes to Employment as a potential partner. This training offer has is still as yet to be developed, but currently the café employs an apprentice. Café Creations also offers shelf hire so that the local arts community are able to showcase and sell their goods. During the current pandemic they too have been involved in ensuring availability of door to door nutritious meals.



Times of crisis bring out the best in our communities, as in the case of **East Cleveland Good Neighbours**. This initiative has been nothing short of amazing with local people being the corner stone of the development. The project is an incredible success story, developing in response to the Covid-19 crisis. Their work is uplifting, kind and supportive of those impacted most by the pandemic, all achieved through a remarkable network of volunteers. The organisation is well known across the area and are continuing their good work during the ongoing pandemic, whilst

also looking at how they can build an accessible organisational structure alongside new projects and in response to local information they are gathering.

Learning - In reviewing spend from the second Plan, the partnership were able to report that many organisations have enjoyed and/or delivered activities due to financial support from ECVBL. Discussions revealed the need for more considered support when responding to future local need. More questions and research should be undertaken to ascertain whether an idea should be delivered by ECVBL or whether it is the responsibility of other organisations/public authority. If ECVBL could deliver an idea, do they have the capacity to be effective and will it be too expensive to deliver? We should also check that any ideas serve the ECVBL vision and values as well as those of Big Local. The final plan for the area should also concentrate of achieving better inter-village connectivity and togetherness.

The review also identified mixed views in terms of the impact of ECVBL. In unpicking this, it is evident that there is a perception of East Cleveland Big Local not doing much. This, we believe, is directly due to our lack of promotion of the projects we have supported, helped to develop and/or funded. This has meant that the provision was recognised only by the delivery organisations who were then seen as the providers of the service, rather than recognised as being supported by ECVBL as a partnership development in response to local issues. Recognising this has led the partnership to discuss the issue of our own visibility as well as the sustainability of provision. This has resulted in a decision to encourage and support local organisations to find match funding.

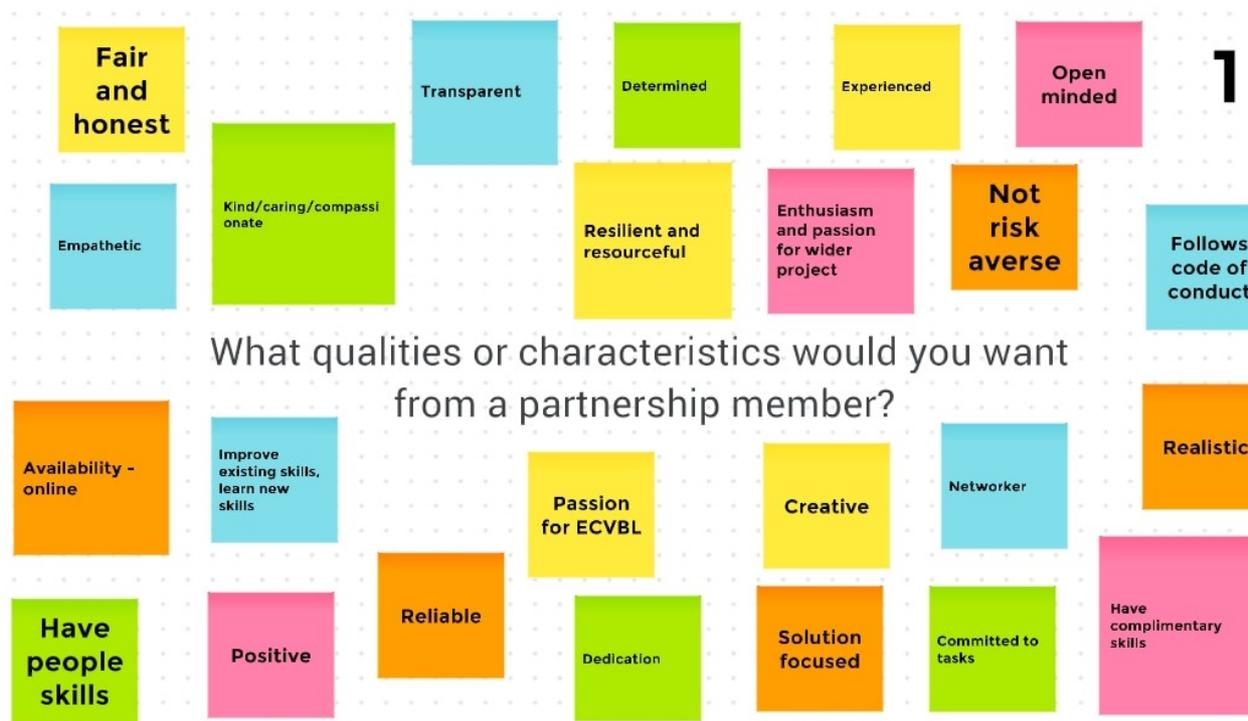
General learning points from our previous plans

- Sometimes we can positively impact on what other organisations are doing
- It is easy to get trapped into becoming a grant giving agency
- There is a need to have a comprehensive communication and promotions presence in order to be recognised as a provider/supporter of local projects and services
- Funding new ideas can raise expectations of continuing funding
- Other funders can be very positive about developments but never commit finance
- Things that get started in response to real grass roots issues by local people are much more likely to get local buy-in and support
- Match funding should be introduced as a condition of ongoing funding of projects
- The Partnership does not always have the capacity to make things happen and accepts that sometimes professional help is required
- We should develop criteria against which all projects are measured, for example most effective delivery agent, capacity, cost effectiveness as well as fit with our vision and values.

Creating this plan

The Creation of this plan is the result of community conversations over the preceding 12 months. Community engagement and consultation has taken place at numerous open days and community events, it has taken place through trusted local partners, through community groups and through community leaders connected to residents.

Seven Zoom workshops were held, some on a weekly basis, in the autumn of 2020. These were widely publicised through social media and emails to interested stakeholders. In the workshops we looked at what we already know, our priorities, governance, evaluation, budgets, vision and legacy.



We did not only rely on community feedback. We have used detailed 'Local Insight' statistical data to create a further layer of community and local understanding. Local Insight considers deprivation indices and it covers population, vulnerable groups, housing, crime & safety, health and well-being, education & skills, economy, access & transport and communities & environment.

The previous plan and its numerous themes of work were reviewed by interviewing key stakeholders from the Big Local area and by forming a working group to provide oversight for the wider partnership.

The stakeholders and working group successfully assessed our learning and identified areas we could improve. We reviewed the money spent and impact achieved. We looked at data and resident feedback, worked through the process of prioritisation, agreed a 3-year budget and prioritised project ideas through a series of project scoring surveys. This resulted in some theme headlines for our costed vision for the next 5 to 6 years and our 3-year Action Plan. These are set out below.

Themes of the plan

Theme 1. Developing the skills and confidence of local people and organisations

The plan review and new plan workshop series highlighted a need to increase the skills, knowledge and understanding of residents so that they are better equipped to identify needs and to be able to take action to address them. This is called Capacity Building.

There is a particular need to raise the understanding ECVBL partnership members have of Big Local governance, policies and processes. Also included in this theme is the governance and project support of the ECVBL. This covers Big Local workers and associated costs.

Furthermore, the promotion and use of existing skills and capacity is a key action. It has been identified that there is a wealth of experience, talent and know how within the ECVBL communities that should be utilised where possible.

The Capacity Building theme aims to build on an area rich in talent and to develop the skills and passions of others for the benefit of ECVBL and the wider community.

Theme 2. Young People

The plan review and new plan workshop series highlighted a need for a locally based youth offer in the East Cleveland Villages Big Local area. The Young People theme aims to understand the needs of the ECVBL area. The new plan workshops and project scoring did not identify specific projects, so deeper consultation is required to achieve effective delivery in this theme.

It is also noted that the ECVBL partnership's understanding is that young people are impacted by social isolation in the same way as adults within the community.

It is envisaged that local young people will be empowered by having the deciding say in how support and resources are deployed?

Theme 3. Health and Well Being

There was a lot of feedback in the consultation, plan review and new plan workshop series relating to being outdoors, exercising, improving physical and mental health and the response to the Covid-19 crisis.

In addition to this feedback there were high levels of concern about social isolation in all ages and a fear of what the future holds - these resident comments shaped the Health and Well Being theme of work.

The Health and Well Being theme aims to tackle and reduce social isolation, provide increased opportunities to exercise and to explore alternative ways of improving physical and mental health.

Theme 4. Being neighbourly - Connecting Our Communities

In scoring the project ideas and listening to resident feedback, a theme emerged that covered being caring, kindness, celebrations, events and in general, being neighbourly.

With the deliberate aim of connecting communities and people, this theme will deliver celebration events and activity that bring people together. It will encourage the kindness and caring that comes from being interested in your neighbour, your street, your village and your wider area.

The Being Neighbourly theme is about creating a culture among residents to take part, to look out for each other and to get involved.

Theme 5. Campaigning and Strong Local Voices

There was a strong feeling that some project ideas were worthwhile doing but should not or could not be done by East Cleveland Villages Big Local.

Some ideas were too expensive, others would take too long to be considered for funding, whilst others were outside the remit of the Big Local and should be delivered by other organisations or public authorities.

The feedback from the previous plan review, project scoring and the new plan workshops was that ECVBL should have a **campaigning voice and use it to lobby for changes**. Activity around transport links, local enterprise and access to medical services were the types of action that was felt to be outside of Big Local remit but that could be influenced through campaigning.

The Campaigning theme aims to raise the voice of local opinion in the Big Local communities in a low cost, effective way.

Costed Vision 2021 to 2026

The total amount remaining for the costed vision to 2026 is approximately £385,000.

The table below sets out the costed vision for East Cleveland Villages Big Local. The costed vision is a way of showing that we have planned our spending based on the experience of our current action plan and have considered what we might need to deliver the next action plan.

We have also identified that an early task for the new ECVBL Partnership will be to develop and agree a policy/approach to the use of match funding.

| Theme | Year 1 (2021) | Year 2 (2022) | Year 3 (2023) | Total Investment (2021, 2022 and 2023) | Total remaining for next action plan (2024 and 2025) |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Our people and capacity building | Staff & support £16,000. Board capacity £1,000. Community capacity £5,000. Area skills audit £1,500. | Staff & support £16,000. Board capacity £1,000. Community capacity £5,000. | Staff & support £16,000. Board capacity £1,000. Community capacity £5,000. | £67,500 | £47,500 |
| Young People | Young people consultation £3,000. | Activities £24,500 | Activities £24,500 | £52,000 | £46,000 |
| Health & Well Being | Covid-19 crisis £6,000. Exercise Opportunities £6,000. | Exercise and health activities £20,000. | Exercise and health activities £20,000. | £52,000 | £46,000 |
| Being neighbourly and connecting communities | Event and activity delivery £3,750. Consultation £3,750. | Community activities £15,000. | Community activities £15,000. | £37,500 | £32,000 |
| Campaigns and strong local voices | Printing etc £750. | Printing etc £750. | Printing etc £750. | £2,250 | £2,250 |
| Total costed vision for £385k and schedule of payments | £46,750 Month 1-6 £23,375 | £82,250 Month 1-6 £41,125 | £82,250 Month 1-6 £41,125 Month 7-12 £41,125 | Total Investment (2021, 2022 and 2023) £211,250 | Total remaining for next plan (2024 and 2025) |

| Theme | Year 1 (2021) | Year 2 (2022) | Year 3 (2023) | Total Investment (2021, 2022 and 2023) | Total remaining for next action plan (2024 and 2025) |
|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---|---|
| | Month 7-12 £23,375 | Month 7-12 £41,125 | | | £173,750 |

Three – Year Action Plan 2021 to 2023

Theme 1. Developing the skills and confidence of local people and organisations

| Aim/Outcome | Action | Duration | Investment |
|--|--|---|-----------------|
| Raise capacity & skills of ECVBL board. | Create Big Local programme of learning, skills development and increase capacity to govern the programme. | Start early 2021 and running to December 2023. | £6,000 |
| Bring a focus and responsibility to capacity building and sharing talent. Give the opportunity for expert advice to board. | Create 'Capacity Building' support group to bring in wider experience, know how and match funding. | Start early 2021 and running to December 2023. | £0 |
| Fully understand the existing skills and talents already in existence in the area. | Create a 'talent' database through audit of community skills. Encourage use of and publicise the community capacity building programme. | Start by April 2021 and running to December 2023. | £3,000 |
| Raise capacity of wider community, residents, organisations and those wanting to see change in the area. | Create community capacity building programme with guidance from support group. Raise community leaders and consider a leadership programme increasing skills for community activism. | Start by April 2021 and running to December 2023. (Scope to go to December 2025 in next action plan). | £30,000 |
| Increased capacity of ECVBL core group. | Confirm and identify the requirements of the ECVBL partnership in terms of paid for professional support. | Decision required in early 2021 and running to December 2023. | £96,000 |
| ECVBL Year 1 investment | | | £23,000 |
| Plus, year 1 match funding | | | £23,000 |
| Total year 1 investment (ECVBL + match funding) | | | £46,000 |
| ECVBL total 3 year investment | | | £67,500 |
| Plus. total 3 year match funding | | | £67,500 |
| Total 3 year investment (ECVBL + match funding) | | | £135,000 |

Theme 2. Young People

| Aim/Outcome | Action | Duration | Investment |
|--|--|---|-----------------|
| Local Young People's Forum bring a focus and responsibility to Young People's activities | Create 'Young People's Forum' supported by expert advice. Empower Young people by them having the deciding say in how support and resources, identified by and for them, are deployed. | Start by April 2021 and running to December 2023. | £0 |
| Understand the deeper needs of young people in ECVBL area. | Create a young people consultation process including schools, clubs and sports teams. Consider how this feeds into EVCBL Partnership on a permanent basis. | Start by June 2021 and completed in time for year 2 starting January 2022. | £6,000 |
| A locally based youth offer. | Use the findings and research of the Young People support group to create a youth offer bespoke to the area. Driven by local young people and local skills and talents. | Start by January 2022 and running to December 2023. (Scope to go to December 2025 in next action plan). | £98,000 |
| ECVBL Year 1 investment | | | £3,000 |
| Plus, year 1 match funding | | | £3,000 |
| Total year 1 investment (ECVBL + match funding) | | | £6,000 |
| ECVBL total 3 year investment | | | £52,000 |
| Plus, total 3 year match funding | | | £52,000 |
| Total 3 year investment (ECVBL + match funding) | | | £104,000 |

Theme 3 Health and Well Being

| Aim/Outcome | Action | Duration | Investment |
|--|--|---|------------|
| Bring a focus and responsibility to Health and Well Being activities. Give the opportunity for expert advice to board. | Create 'Health & Well Being' support group to bring in wider experience, know how and match funding. Reach a decision on activity from October 2021. | Start by April 2021 and running to December 2023. | £0 |
| Support ECVBL residents through continued Covid-19 crisis. | Ask the East Cleveland Good Neighbours project for extension of services to cover period until spring 2021. | Immediate decision required and running to April 2021. | £12,000 |
| Increase levels of walking, running and cycling in ECVBL area. | Create guided exercise groups as first step to increasing outdoor physical activity. Build on legacy of Klondike ahead of support group guidance. | Start by April 2021 and running to October 2021. | £12,000 |
| A more active community, using the outdoor spaces of the area more frequently for health and exercise. | Use the findings and research of the Health and Well Being support group to create an exercise culture and bespoke engagement opportunity in the area. Driven by local passions, local skills and talents. | Start by January 2022 and running to December 2023. (Scope to go to December 2025 in next action plan). | £80,000 |
| ECVBL Year 1 investment | | | £12,000 |
| Plus year 1 match funding | | | £12,000 |
| Total year 1 investment (ECVBL + match funding) | | | £24,000 |
| ECVBL total 3 year investment | | | £52,000 |
| Plus total 3 year match funding | | | £52,000 |
| Total 3 year investment (ECVBL + match funding) | | | £104,000 |

Theme 4 Being neighbourly - Connecting Our Communities

| Aim/Outcome | Action | Duration | Investment |
|--|--|---|----------------|
| Bring a focus and responsibility 'Being Neighbourly' activities. Give the opportunity for wider groups of residents advice to board. | Create 'Being Neighbourly' support group to bring in wider experience, know how and match funding. | Start by April 2021 and running to December 2023. | £0 |
| Provide opportunities for residents and villages to celebrate key events, festivals and connect with others. | Establish a diary of connection opportunities around key calendar dates. | By June 2021 and annually to December 2023. (Scope to go to December 2025 in next action plan). | £0 |
| Delivery of ECVBL wide connection events. | Creation of action plan for each event, budget and event signed off by board. | April 2021 and running to December 2023. (10 events in total: 2 in year 1 and 4 per year in years 2 and 3). | £67,500 |
| ECVBL to be more connected to communities, for communities to know ECVBL and their work. To consult to stakeholders | Use events to gain feedback on legacy of ECVBL, future work and projects. | April 2021 and running to December 2023. (10 events in total: 2 in year 1 and 4 per year in years 2 and 3). | £7,500 |
| ECVBL Year 1 investment | | | £7,500 |
| Plus year 1 match funding | | | £7,500 |
| Total year 1 investment (ECVBL + match funding) | | | £15,000 |
| ECVBL total 3 year investment | | | £37,500 |
| Plus total 3 year match funding | | | £37,500 |
| Total 3 year investment (ECVBL + match funding) | | | £75,000 |

Theme 5 Campaigning and Strong Local Voices

| Aim/Outcome | Action | Duration | Investment |
|--|---|---|---------------|
| Bring a focus and responsibility to 'Campaigning' activities. Give the opportunity for expert advice to board. | Create 'Campaign' support group to bring in wider experience and know how. | Start by April 2021 and running to December 2023. | £0 |
| Make residents of ECVBL area feel that their opinions are being heard. | Identify the agenda for campaigning and influence. Host and network meetings to gain wider views and use print, flyer and posters where needed. | Start by April 2021 and running to December 2023. (Scope to go to December 2025 in next action plan). | £4,500 |
| ECVBL Year 1 investment | | | £750 |
| Plus year 1 match funding | | | £750 |
| Total year 1 investment (ECVBL + match funding) | | | £1,500 |
| ECVBL total 3 year investment | | | £2,250 |
| Plus total 3 year match funding | | | £2,250 |
| Total 3 year investment (ECVBL + match funding) | | | £4,500 |

Governing the Partnership and implementing the plan

We have made the decision to invest in the Partnership Board to enable us to work together in an equal and cooperative way. We want to increase our influence with a higher profile and encourage more local involvement, so giving East Cleveland villages a greater voice on issues of local significance that are relevant to us. We want to develop new skills and experiences which will make us more efficient and able to achieve more.

There was discussion on the structure of our governing board and it was agreed that delegate system from local villages was now not appropriate and the role of the district councillors would be that of non-voting observers to maintain appropriate distance in performing their political, strategic and elected roles. This means we will be aiming to strengthen our Governing Board, understanding that interested individuals will bring in more ideas and build more local capacity. One of the ways we will encourage new members will be through our Community Learning programme. This will offer shared learning and also hear from local people what learning they would value.

We will be looking for delivery partners to help us deliver on our themes and simple but focussed briefs will accompany our call outs. We hope this will encourage more innovative projects to develop.

We are also aware that we have not had the benefit of a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and impact procedure in place and this too will be rectified. Local Trust has developed and made available resources which can help us better measure the change our Big Local is making. Their research team are also on hand to help. We know that measuring the change we are making is not just about crunching numbers, it's about understanding how we have made our community a better place to live and changed people's lives for the better.

This will help us show our communities what difference we are making as well as identify what is going well and what needs to be improved. It will help us attract new partners, volunteers and resources as well as help with our legacy.

We will develop a simple Terms of Reference/Operational Guidance document which will be available to all. Decisions will be democratically reached and protected. We are committed to working in an open and transparent way. We will also develop communication processes so that we can hear from our communities (whether positive or negative) and using an agreed process respond appropriately in a timely manner.

Legacy Statement/Conclusion

We are about connecting and reconnecting individuals, villages and community groups. No connection is too small as we move towards our brighter future, co-creating, sharing and working together.

Through our investment in building on the wealth of experience, talent and know how within the East Cleveland Villages Big Local communities, we have started a process which can continue to build on the passions of local people and organisations for the benefit of the wider community.

We know this will contribute to the continued development of healthy connected communities who understand that they are better together. Isolation will be minimised as being more neighbourly will be the norm with local people helping each other bounce back from problems and hard times making them more resilient and able to support each other in proactive ways.

We will ensure that our people are engaged and confident by practicing what we preach and listening to the needs and wants of our communities, encouraging a strong independent voice which in turn will encourage local growth and development.

Our legacy will be in the confident use of our East Cleveland voice, organising ourselves to achieve what we want because we can assess the needs of our areas and get heard by the right people.