

Local Trust have approved the following feedback for the partnership regarding the assessment of their new Plan.

Mablethorpe, Trusthorpe and Sutton on Sea

Mablethorpe has not changed significantly since the area profile was prepared in 2013, it remains a seasonal economy with a lot of visitors during the summer, and a high proportion of people who retire there. The local comprehensive school closed a year ago so now students face a minimum 7 mile journey to access secondary education. The demographics have worsened – health, education, housing outcomes are poorer now than in 2013, worklessness is higher. Benefits changes have impacted negatively on local people and public services are collapsing. The partnership is keenly aware of these shifts and tries to work with the Town Council to address some of them.

It is clear that there is strong local resident input in CCC and local people very much shape and influence the development of the programme. The Plan Review that has been carried out is excellent in many respects, as it is thorough and insightful, and it describes a detailed process of community engagement. It is also clear that the partnership has learnt from their experience and that they appreciate the vital role of communications and have taken steps to refine theirs. Of particular note is their attractive and informative website where residents can access a range of information. Their bi-monthly newsletter (Chatback) is accessible and engaging (copy attached to the Review).

There is a lot in this Plan and it's ambitious and broad. The partnership is much better organised now, and more outgoing, and they seek to work with a wide range of partners, and they are persistent in seeking to forge relationships. Poverty and doorstep lending are specifically identified in the review and directly addressed in the new Plan by the introduction of a crisis loans fund. This scheme carries risk in that some loans could go bad but they feel this is a risk worth taking and the risk element is written into the interest rate.

We discussed sharing out the workload to avoid overloading some individuals to ensure every partnership member plays their part fully.

The partnership has a relatively long list of 'Legacy' projects, and it's important to remember that not everything achieved will be visible. Especially as some of the legacy will be more in improving and transforming lives, creating jobs and supporting new businesses rather than in physical changes.