



Revoelution Plan 2023-25

Introduction

Hello, and welcome to the latest Revoelution Plan! My name is Angie Buss and I am Chair of Revoelution. I have lived in the area for over 22 years.

This is our final 3-year spending plan – after 2025 we will continue as an independent charity. It comes from all your feedback, your ideas and aspirations, so that we can together make this area a better place to live for all of us.

Revoelution is Lottery funded via the Local Trust, a national organisation who oversee 150 'Big Local' areas like ours. The money is already assigned to Revoe so we don't have to apply, but we do have to send a spending plan to the Local Trust for approval every three years. This is our latest plan; it is also our last, as the funding ends in December 2025.

The overall aim of Revoelution is to improve the lives of people living in Revoe, and to be guided by the people living here in how best to achieve this.

We work for the benefit of residents in three ways:

1. By direct delivery – Revoelution staff and volunteers running things like our Work Club, youth groups and Romanian advice sessions.
2. Working in partnership – we have funded or hosted services such as benefits advice from the Blackpool Centre for the Unemployed, mental health support from Counselling in the Community, and food parcels from His Provision and the Council's Discretionary Support team.
3. Representing residents of Revoe – using the power of our connections in the community to encourage the NHS, Council and other large organisations to come into the area to provide services for the benefit of residents.

Our planned activities for the future are broken up into 5 'Themes', based on ongoing contributions from you, the residents. These are:

1. Health and Wellbeing
2. Employability and Opportunities
3. Young People
4. Environment and Creativity
5. Advocacy and Representation

Revoelution currently costs around £100,000 per year to run. In the last three years we have also brought in around £101,000 external funding. An important part of Revoelution's work over the next 3 years will be to make the project sustainable by finding reliable long-term sources of income.

We hope you enjoy reading this, and don't forget – pop in and see us at the Revoelution Hub to give us your views and ideas!

Angie Buss

The Partnership:

Revoelution is run by a committee of people who live in Revoe – the Revoelution Partnership. We have a paid Project Manager who runs day-to-day operations at the Hub, and meetings are attended by representatives from Blackpool Coastal Housing who ensure that the project doesn't enter into undue organisational risk, but overall strategic decision-making is carried out entirely by the Revoe residents on the Partnership. The current (May 2023) Revoelution Partnership members are as follows:

Angie Buss, Chair

Angie attends the Hub on a regular basis and is the first point of contact for the Partnership. Angie has represented Revoelution at meetings nationally, and recently attended an All-Party Parliamentary Group in Westminster.

Joyce Folkett, Vice Chair

As well as being Vice Chair and minute-taker at meetings, Joyce also runs our twice-weekly Work Club, attends DWP and Council meetings about financial inclusion, and helps out in the community garden and Revoe Minis youth group.

Pat Heaton

A relatively new Partnership member, Pat lets us hold our meetings at the Brunswick Club on Bethesda Square. She also runs the Mencap weekly disco there and helps run the Memory Lane Café at Ibbison Court.

Vicky Dwyer

A long-standing member of the Partnership, Vicky has attended national conferences on behalf of Revoelution. She has also now set up her own charity, the Revoe Minis, and is an active community member.

Denise Williams

Representative of Revoelution's LTO (Local Trusted Organisation), Blackpool Coastal Housing. Denise is a non-voting member of the Partnership but has a wealth of experience and knowledge to support our decision-making.

Alison Chapman

Alison helps Vicky run the Revoe Minis and contributes to fundraising events by providing fantastic home-baked cakes. She also cleans and generally helps out at the Hub.

Annie Johnson

Annie is an experienced youth and community worker and a valuable asset for the Partnership. She helps out at our weekly Juniors group, plus doing some gardening and staffing some of our open advice sessions at the Hub.

Linda McKenzie

Linda runs the Work Club alongside Joyce, helping people with a wide range of form-filling and acting as advocate in their dealings with officialdom. She is also an active community member, regularly contacting Enveco about fly-tipping and helping the Romanian community.

Nikita Clarke

The newest member of the Partnership, Nikita has staffed the Hub during open sessions, helped out with our Seniors youth group, and cooked several dishes for a multi-cultural food-sharing event at Ibbison Court.

Learning

Learning is a vital part of the Big Local process. We need to be actively and constantly learning – we frequently come across situations we've not been in before. We have learnt from the last three years and we want to ensure that lessons are reflected in this Plan. Some of the most important points are:

- We've learnt that deep understanding of the community is powerful and we need to keep working on that.
- We need to stay focused and positive in planning and discussion, however difficult – that's the only way to move forward.
- Understanding the strength of community in the area and its positive aspects is important, rather than always focusing on deprivation and negativity.
- We've seen the benefit of do-it-yourself, just getting things done and not waiting for other organisations.
- Engagement takes time and work! We now understand the importance of this and we need to keep at it.
- Monitoring – we've not really got our monitoring systems sorted out and if we're applying for external funding we need to have evidence.

Themes:

Revoelution's work is led by feedback from residents alongside data provided through sites like Local Insight (see Appendix). When we started, back in 2014, we ran a series of consultations to find out what issues residents felt were most important in Revoe. These priorities, or 'Themes', are still relevant now – as part of the development of this Plan we've asked people for their feelings about the priorities for the area and the same issues came up. Below is an overview of these Themes, with a review of what we've done over the last three years and what we'd like to do between now and 2025, followed by a costed Action Plan.

Health and Wellbeing

Background:

This is a key issue for the Revoelution Partnership. Improving the health and wellbeing of residents is an underlying theme in all the work we do, and links to all the other priorities. The physical environment in Revoe, people's income, housing conditions and employment all have an impact on people's wellbeing.

Some of the activities delivered by Revoelution help directly. Our social groups, for example, reduce isolation and therefore improve mental health. We provide opportunities for healthy outdoor activity in our community gardens, the street art around the Hub improves perceptions of the area, and our advice sessions help people in stressful situations.

However, health is a very big issue in the area. The life expectancy for men born in Revoe is ten years lower than the average in England, and they can expect to develop life-limiting illnesses from the age of 54. Revoe residents are far more likely to develop lung cancer, coronary heart disease and respiratory disease than the UK average and far more likely to be admitted to hospital as an emergency. Problems like these cannot be solved by a small community-based organisation alone; we need to bring in the public sector and larger agencies to work with us. An important future role for Revoelution will be to lobby agencies to provide more health support in Revoe and to seek facilities in which this support can be hosted.

Done (over the last three years):

- Social activities that reduce isolation and improve mental health, such as our own music and art groups, and supporting groups at Ibbison Court including bingo and Memory Lane Café.
- Covid support: door-knocking during the pandemic to understand and meet people's needs.
- Food parcels: continuing to be a collection point for Discretionary Support parcels and providing our own emergency food when necessary.
- Household Essentials and utility bill top-ups: through Discretionary Support and through our own funding.
- Warm Hub: providing a warm social space for residents through Council funding.
- Outdoor activities: gardening, walking, cycling and other activities to promote healthy outdoor activity.
- Hosting or funding a range of services directly addressing health needs: CAMHS, Counselling in the Community, Lighthouse alcohol support, yoga sessions, the HARRI bus.
- Hosting or funding services that reduce stress and therefore improve wellbeing: BCFU benefits advice, tenancy advice, His Provision community pantry, Ibbison women's group, Young at Heart.
- Romanian advice sessions: providing a translation and support service for Romanian families in the area.
- Working in partnership with a wide range of support services so that we can refer people who need specialist support.
- NHS survey: working with the ICB research team to understand the reasons for high levels of unplanned hospital admissions in Bloomfield.
- Healthwatch vaping survey: facilitated a survey of young people in the area about their vaping.

Want to do:

- Continue to employ engagement workers to keep in touch with vulnerable and elderly people in the area, and to build on our understanding of people's health and wellbeing needs so that we can bring in support/initiatives and partnerships to address those needs.
- Find ways to maintain regular and meaningful communication with public sector agencies to ensure Revoelution's position as a place-based asset, linking the community with services.
- Continue to work with the NHS to improve urgent care and mental health support in the area, and to find ways to directly address specific issues such as drugs and alcohol.
- Continue to work on services and activities that address wider determinants of health e.g. benefits advice and moving people into employment.
- Make best use of all the resources we have access to in our area, including maintaining contact with a wide range of health support agencies.
- Work with Public Health on campaigns around issues such as poor diet, smoking and vaping.

Environment and Creativity**Background:**

The importance of the poor physical environment was recognised when we ran our first consultations in 2014. When asked how to improve Revoe, a common response was 'knock it down and start again'. There has been little improvement in the overall appearance of the area since then; there are still boarded-up shops, derelict properties, fly-tipping and littering. The poor state of the environment has a knock-on effect; because Revoe looks bad people often don't want to live here for long, they don't take pride in the area and have no sense of belonging, and therefore they don't seek to improve their properties and are more likely to drop litter. If we can reverse this cycle it would be a vital step towards improving the area. Housing conditions are an important part of this theme; residents frequently come to us to raise issues about the state of their accommodation, which is why we now host regular tenancy advice sessions. However, as with Health and Wellbeing, there is little Revoelution can do to directly affect the large-scale physical environment in the area; a big part of future work on this theme will be working with public sector agencies.

We have run or funded a large number of creative projects over the last three years, often with partner organisations. These have included music sessions in the George with 'Kin Folk, dance sessions with Skool of Street, lantern-making with the Old Electric, mosaic-making with Last Legs, various projects with LeftCoast, and our very own arts and crafts group on a Tuesday evening. Creative projects engage people and bring them together, and the resulting art works can brighten up the area. We will continue to encourage residents to get involved in arts in Revoe.

Done:

- Gardening: there are two gardening groups at the Hub and we have run gardening sessions on the Trades Club site. These are opportunities for social interaction and outdoor activity, as well as improving the environment.
- Green alleys: we have worked with the police and Council towards 'green alleys' – back alleys with gardens and play facilities. This is still in the planning stage but will be developed over the coming months.
- Street art: we commissioned street art on the planters and walls around the Hub, and ran street art sessions with young people. The colourful designs in front of Ibbison Court are often mentioned by residents.
- Creative activities: we have worked with a wide range of artists and creative organisations on projects including dance, theatre, crafts and music.
- Graffiti removal: we have provided tools and materials for volunteers to remove unsightly and offensive graffiti.
- Litter picks: regular litter picks are run with young people and adults.
- Working with Enveco – we communicate regularly with Enveco about fly tipping and waste collections, both at PACT meetings (Police and Communities Together) and via email. Our Romanian engagement worker has assisted Enveco with letter translations.
- Litter collections and amnesty days with the Council: Revoelution have hosted and jointly funded three amnesty days with litter-picks, skips and free collection of large items.

Want to do:

- Be a representative voice for Revoe in discussions around large-scale environmental projects such as the Revoe Masterplan and Blackpool Central.
- Lobby on behalf of Revoe residents for improved community facilities in the area.
- Continue to fund street art in the area.
- Act as a representative for residents regarding housing conditions, waste collections and other environmental issues.
- Continue to work with the Council, police and other agencies on green space projects such as community gardens and green alleys.

Employment and Opportunities

Background:

The proportion of residents in Revoe on unemployment benefits is more than double the Blackpool average. 26% of the working age population is in receipt of workless benefit (which includes incapacity) and have been for more than a year. This has knock-on effects for individuals and for the area: “There is a strong evidence base showing that...worklessness is associated with poorer physical and mental health and wellbeing.” DWP report 2006.

For more than five years Revoelution has run a Work Club twice a week which has helped residents access their Universal Credit and Findajob accounts, written CVs and given advice on job applications, training courses and benefits. Our members have tended to be in the 50+ age group which has often been overlooked by Government training schemes despite ONS figures showing one in three of the unemployed in Blackpool is over fifty.

We have had some limited success in encouraging people to attend courses aimed at improving their employability. This is an important area of work as 48% of Revoe residents of working age lack any qualifications. We would like to enable more residents to attend training. We also have signposted people to More Positive Together, which offers tailored person-centred support to those moving into work, and the Blackpool Centre for the Unemployed who offer specialist benefits advice. This work is important for people’s mental health; on average there are 21 applications for every job in Blackpool, and the fear that their attempts to find work will be judged inadequate by the DWP leading to a sanction or even the loss of benefits altogether, can leave residents feeling overwhelmed and stressed.

Another element of this work is helping people in Revoe start up their own businesses. We have already helped a couple of residents with this, but we would like to be able to help further and bring in the support of advice agencies. We would also like to work with large employers in and around Revoe to provide support to residents in the area to find employment.

Done:

- Work Club: Before Covid an average 6-8 people would attend sessions specifically around employment, and we received DWP referrals. At present sessions attract lower numbers but they have now become a general drop-in session for anyone needing help with referrals and/or advice and have to an extent merged with our Warm Hub support.

- Local representation with employers: we are a named community stakeholder in the Blackpool Central development, and we refer residents to job fairs.
- Links to relevant agencies: Revoelution volunteers attend DWP stakeholders' information sessions and we are talking to DWP about JobCentre sessions at the Hub; MPT employability support and training organisations such as PHX have attended our Work Club.
- We have helped residents set up small businesses, assisting them with HMRC registration and other forms and referring them to the Council's Blackpool Unlimited service for further support.

Want to do:

- Continue to help people with CVs, job searches and other advice at our Work Club.
- Strengthen our connection with the Job Centre and other agencies so that we take more referrals and are better able to refer residents to relevant training and support.
- Help more people to set up businesses and social enterprises with the help of other agencies such as Blackpool Unlimited and Social Enterprise Solutions.

Young People

Background:

Working with young people in Revoe is a vital element of Revoelution's work for a number of reasons. Primarily we want to see direct and immediate benefits to young people's wellbeing. Revoe is an area of low academic attainment, low levels of entry to higher education, poor health and fitness among the young and high levels of child poverty. We have found that engaging young people in activities impacts positively on their school attendance, behaviour and wellbeing and we want to continue this work to raise young people's confidence, self-esteem and aspirations in readiness for adult life.

A benefit of youth work to adult residents of Revoe is that engaging young people in activities helps reduce anti-social behaviour and petty crime. We have run football sessions on Revoe Park to move street football away from residential areas, and we ran successful diversionary activities last summer to lessen anti-social behaviour around Ibbison Court.

We have been able to use our connections with young people to help our engagement of their families. For example, we have passed messages to Romanian families in the area via the children, who speak English, and we are planning sessions with Enveco at our Juniors Club to promote recycling.

Finally, of course, children are the future. If we can raise the academic qualifications and aspirations of young people in Revoe this will have a beneficial impact on the population as a whole in the future.

In common with other youth organisations in Blackpool we have found that engaging young people aged 14+ is difficult; we will therefore no longer be employing a full-time youth worker to recruit and develop a senior group. Instead, we will recruit temporary freelance staff to work on specific projects with teenagers as the need arises.

Done:

- Juniors: our 9-11 year group on Thursday evenings is popular and successful, run by one freelance worker, an adult volunteer and two teenage helpers.
- Football on Revoe Park: Revoelution funds football sessions on Revoe Park, run by F.A. qualified coaches Alan and Jack Williams. These are extremely successful, attracting 40+ participants in the summer. As a result Revoelution are the lead community contact for a Council-led Football Foundation-funded project to improve sports facilities on Revoe Park.
- Assisting independent groups: the Revoe Minis group (age 5-8yrs) was initially run by Revoelution but has now set up as an independent charity; its committee is successfully fundraising and the group is popular. We have also helped set up the KT Stars children's dance group and funded Bugs2Butterflies, a long-running youth group at New Life Church.
- Art Group: we have an existing small group of 12-13 year olds who volunteer at Juniors on Thursdays and are involved in various arts activities on Wednesday evenings.
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award: 3 young people from Revoelution achieved their Bronze DofE Award last year, and 3 have moved on to Blackpool's Open Access Group to work towards their Silver Award.
- Staff training: Two youth work staff have attended Level 3 Youth Work courses, and one has attended a European-funded Mental Health for Young People course in the Netherlands. Other courses have included First Aid and Self-Harm Awareness.
- Referrals: We have facilitated the involvement of young people in a range of activities and projects run by external organisations, such as boxing at Brian Rose gym and dancing with Skool of Street.

Want to do:

- Youth Work Model: we want to continue to build relationships with young people so that we can understand their needs, concerns and interests, and develop activities and projects based on that understanding.

- Juniors and Football: we will continue to support and develop these successful groups.
- Partnerships and referrals: Revoelution need to work alongside external organisations such as Revoe Learning Academy and South Family Hub to ensure that children and families can access the full range of opportunities available in the area.
- Ensure that representation on the Revoelution Partnership includes the voice of young people.

Representation and Advocacy

A key success of Revoelution over the last three years has been its ability to reach into the community and represent the views of the people living in Revoe. The Revoelution Partnership provides a strong, effective lead for the project and is made up of nine residents who are all active in the community, brought together by their determination to improve the area. Our successful engagement of residents is regarded as exemplary by the Local Trust, the national overseeing body for 'Big Local' projects, and members of the Revoelution Partnership have attended national conferences and meetings including an All-Party Parliamentary Committee on the cost of living crisis in Westminster.

The project has always been led by the wishes of residents and we have used a wide range of methods to consult, but our reach was significantly increased by the recruitment of freelance engagement workers to knock on doors during the pandemic. The first two workers knocked on all 1,200 doors in the area three times and built up a comprehensive understanding of residents' needs, concerns and interests. The success of this face-to-face engagement work has brought in further funding for specific projects and we now have a team of six freelance engagement workers who all contribute to a searchable contact list of well over 1000 people.

The representative voice provided by these contacts has brought in funded work from a variety of sources, large external organisations wishing to benefit from Revoelution's in-depth understanding of the population of a very deprived area. In order to properly represent and advocate for our community, we need to ensure that we are a strong, sustainable organisation.

Done:

- Partnership: created a strong effective leadership from a group of residents, growing in knowledge and understanding over last 3 years.
- Engagement: regular rounds of door-knocking and recording of people's interests and concerns.
- Recognised representative voice: we have been contacted by NHS, Leftcoast and others, as well as media contacts – Times, BBC and others.
- Successful links with the public sector and other large external organisations, working together

- Local Neighbourhood Partnership: recently started local network of agencies
- Community buildings: we have had conversations with BCH, Leftcoast, Betterstart, the Volunteer Centre and the Council's Housing Strategy team about plans for new community facilities in Revoe.
- External funding: brought in around £100k in the last 2 years based on our reach into the community.

Want to do:

- Maintain and develop our representative voice
- Monitoring and evaluation: establish effective systems to demonstrate the effectiveness of our work
- Charity registration
- Training and development: trusteeship, funding applications, day-to-day Hub management
- Further external sources of income: grant funding and possible income streams through contacts and/or facilities hire

Building: we will continue to talk to other agencies about the possibility of new or refurbished community facilities in Revoe, providing a fit-for-purpose space to run services and activities such as health and recovery services, youth activities, employment support, arts activities and a community café.

We have had conversations about this with Blackpool Council's Housing Strategy team, Levelling Up team, Youth Service Manager and Public Health team, and with Blackpool Coastal Housing, South Family Hub, LeftCoast, Blackpool Volunteer Centre and BetterStart. It is possible that a new community facility will be built on Central Drive in the next few years, and that Revoelution will be involved. We have therefore included a sum towards a community building in the Action Plan. However, all Local Trust funding needs to be spent by the end of 2025 and it is possible that progress towards the building will not be at a point by then that can absorb our contribution.

We have therefore included a 'Plan B' in the Action Plan with a trigger date of March 2024 at which point we will decide if it is workable for us to contribute to a community building. 'Plan B' has not yet been decided but are working on possibilities, including refurbishment of a Central Drive retail unit to run as a temporary community space providing 'proof of concept' for a larger bid, or funding for agencies to run targeted support sessions in Revoe.

Costed Action Plan 2023-25

Theme	Projects	Notes	Match	Calculation	Funding	Monitoring
Health and Wellbeing	Continue to employ engagement workers to keep in touch with vulnerable and elderly people in the area, and to understand people's health and wellbeing needs.	Engagement is the key budget area for Revoelution – its through engagement, and the committed Revoelution volunteers, that most of the plan will be delivered	Currently £25k in the pot from other funders	Based on current costs of two person team	60 000	Outcomes: Improved health and wellbeing among residents Increased pride of place and sense of community
	Find ways to establish regular and meaningful contact with public sector agencies to ensure effective communication	To complement the Engagement budget, which crosses over a number of project areas, we're creating a Resources budget – this project is one of many that will benefit from small amounts of funding for printing/room hire/catering etc i.e. resources for our engagement team to use	May be opportunities particularly if needing equipment	£4k per annum across 6-8 project areas	10 000	Raised public sector awareness. Improved access to services for residents
	Continue to work with the NHS to improve urgent care and mental health support in the area, and to find ways to directly address specific issues such as drugs and alcohol.				0	Linked Outputs: # resident contacts # reporting increased sense of community # actively engaged i.e. volunteering
	Continue to work on services and activities that address wider				0	# reported improvement in health

	determinants of health e.g. benefits advice.					and/or mental wellbeing
	Make best use of all the resources we have access to in our area, including maintaining contact with a wide range of health support agencies.				0	# residents more connected with support organisations # agencies involved
	Work with Public Health on campaigns around issues such as poor diet, smoking and vaping.				0	# external funding brought in Case studies
Environment and Creativity	Be a representative voice for Revoe in discussions around large-scale environmental projects such as the Revoe Masterplan and Blackpool Central	Approach Local Trust for 'campaigning' support? (no cost)	Might be funding for this – speak to Groundwork?		0	Outcomes: Improved environment in Revoe Improved perceptions of the area
	Lobby on behalf of Revoe residents for improved community facilities in the area.				0	
	Continue to fund creative arts		Speak to existing partners about funding e.g. Left Coast	£5k x 2yrs	10 000	Linked Outputs: # people reporting an improved environment # people outside the area reporting
	Act as a representative for residents regarding housing	Resource cost included in budget above			0	

	conditions, waste collections and other environmental issues.					improved perceptions of Revoe # agencies involved
	Continue to work with the Council, police and other agencies on green space projects such as community gardens and green alleys.	A budget to encourage work but must be careful not to substitute for public funding,	Would want to see Council match	say £10k x 2yrs	20 000	# community spaces available # street art or green projects # issues addressed
Employment and Opportunities	Continue to help people with CVs, job searches and other advice at our Work Club.	Resource cost included in budget above			0	Outcomes: Better employment chances for residents of Revoe
	Strengthen our connection with the Job Centre and other agencies so that we take more referrals and are better able to refer residents to relevant training and support.				0	Local businesses providing work for Revoe residents Revoe residents starting businesses
	Help more people to set up businesses and social enterprises with the help of other agencies such as Blackpool Unlimited and Social Enterprise Solutions, and possibly providing low-cost start-up premises.	Take this on as signposting activity but will also try to bring support into Revoe (alongside Job Club?). Need to test demand.	Activity should be funded by others.		0	Linked Outputs: # people visiting Work Club #training course referrals # successful job applications/interviews

						# direct connections with local businesses (work placements, guaranteed interviews) Case studies
Young People	Youth Work Model: we want to continue to build relationships with young people so that we can understand their needs, concerns and interests, and develop activities and projects based on that understanding.	£10k x 2 + 5k based on current activity	Could bring in funding to at least match	£10k x 2yrs £5k resources	25 000	Outcomes: Young people in Revoe have greater confidence, higher aspirations and better life chances
	Juniors and Football: we will continue to support and develop these successful groups.			£6k per annum	12 000	Young people in Revoe are healthier and happier
	Partnerships and referrals: Revoelution need to work alongside external organisations to benefit the young people of Revoe as much as possible.	Resource cost included in budget above				0

					# Organisations offering opportunities and activities
Representation and advocacy	Maintain and develop our representative voice	May be Local Trust support with this		0	Outcomes: Residents more connected to their community/neighbours Residents feel able to influence decision-making about Revoe A better sense of community and pride in place Linked Outputs: # residents reporting better connection to the area # residents reporting they feel able to influence decision-making # residents reporting pride in place # Partnership members # volunteers
	Monitoring and evaluation: establish effective systems to demonstrate the effectiveness of our work	Delivered through partnership		0	
	Charity registration	Possible costs e.g. accountancy fees		5 000	
	Training and development: trusteeship, funding applications, day-to-day management(?)	Worker cost only (see below)	May be external free support		
	Further external sources of income: grant funding and possible income streams through contacts and/or facilities hire	Worker cost only (see below)			

Community Building	Needs to be spent by end of 2025 – decision needed early if want to invest Big Local funds, needs an alternative	Would not be able to fund with Big Local alone but would want to contribute to feasibility and professional costs	Various opportunities being considered		81 000	
	Plan B – alternative spend if Local Trust funding contribution to a building is not possible	Review needs to take place by September 2024 to allow time for implementation			As above	
Fixed Costs	Salaries and associated costs	Worker cost increase to £30k p.a.		£30k plus oncosts x 2.5 yrs plus redundancy provision 3k	97 000	
	Other partnership/building costs	£1k per month x 30 months	As above		30 000	
TOTAL					350 000	

Legacy Statement

This is Revoelution's last plan. We are fortunate to have received around £100,000 Big Local funding per year since 2016, but the last year of this funding is 2025; any money left in our account after December that year will be taken back by the Lottery. It is therefore important that this plan includes measures to enable the Revoelution Partnership to continue their work for the benefit of Revoe residents beyond the end of 2025.

We need to consider what we see as the legacy of Big Local funding, what we think the future of Revoe looks like and how Revoelution fits into that future, and what measures we need to take to ensure we can continue to contribute. These measures will include the right governance, seeking sustainable funding, addressing issues in our priority Themes and working towards a community building:

Big Local Legacy:

The Revoelution Partnership see the legacy of Big Local funding as being about empowering people. It is important that in an area facing so many challenges, people are given the skills, connections and knowledge to take action. We also need to make sure that people can work together so that they can agree what issues require action.

We've started this process; we've supported, connected and funded organisations and there are several community groups active in the area that have the skills to keep going of their own accord, but we need to make sure that the process continues.

The Future of Revoe, and how Revoelution can contribute:

Revoe faces an uncertain, and hopefully exciting, future. The challenges faced by residents have been recognised by Blackpool Council and other agencies; there is talk of a housing enforcement team in the area to improve housing conditions, a possible health facility on Central Drive, a base for creative businesses, and more. Eyes are definitely on Revoe at the moment. On top of this the Blackpool Central development is taking shape just at the end of Central Drive, and the Blackpool Football Club development has started at the other – being a route between the two could provide footfall for businesses on the Drive.

There are risks here. Having large external organisations developing businesses and other facilities on the Drive brings the danger that residents will have less say and see less benefit. Becoming part of the tourist area of Blackpool could endanger the sense of community in Revoe and unless work is done to specifically involve Revoe residents, is likely to bring very little financial benefit – a few retail jobs at best.

Revoe residents need to be able to take advantage of these opportunities and a collaborative approach will be vital. Being a strong, empowered community will mean that residents can, for example, work with external agencies to ensure that people living in the area get a fair chance of employment at Blackpool Central or new businesses on the Drive. Residents should be involved in the development of health support in the area, and should be able to contribute to

any creative projects. The Revoelution Partnership can provide a focal point for this community involvement; we can channel residents' feedback to the agencies and help community groups with formal processes required by larger organisations.

Governance:

The residents that make up the Revoelution Partnership are committed to continuing their work after Big Local funding ends, but to do so they will need to apply for other grant funding. Revoelution will therefore need to become an independent charity. We are applying to the Charity Commission for C.I.O. status (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) and are working with the Local Trust and Blackpool Coastal Housing to ensure a smooth transition from hosted community group to registered charity.

There are two main risks involved: that the Partnership are unable to successfully maintain Revoelution as an independent charity, and that a lack of engagement of residents weakens their position as a representative voice for the area.

We are grateful to Blackpool Coastal Housing for their support and assistance with the project so far; they have assured the Partnership that they will continue to support Revoelution after their formal role as 'local trusted organisation' has ended. But as trustees of a registered charity the Partnership will need to be able to run the organisation independently as far as possible, and this will need more attention and resources over the next few years. Partnership members will need training in specific roles and skillsets – operational management, publicity, financial controls and fundraising. Over the next few years training to ensure a strong legacy will be a priority.

Continuing engagement and consultation of residents will also be a priority. Without our current reach into the community we will not be able to develop activities and projects that meet residents' needs, we won't be able to access funding and we will not be able to bring external support agencies into the area. Maintaining our current level of connection with residents – either by paid staff or volunteers – will be vital.

External Funding:

One of these areas of training will be around fundraising and bid-writing. The Partnership understands that they will need to apply for significant grant funding to continue their work in Revoe. We have brought in over £100,000 over the last 3 years on the strength of our reach into the local community, and we plan to increase the number of voluntary hours in running the Revoelution Hub to reduce costs, but we will need to maintain and preferably increase our current rate of funding to be able to provide the level of services we do now. We have time to do this, and we have positive relationships with potential funders, but we will need to improve our monitoring and evaluation processes.

Themes – Health and Wellbeing:

As outlined in the Action Plan above, health and wellbeing are key priorities for the Partnership, and this is therefore our overarching Theme. We are striving to improve the wellbeing of the residents of Revoe in three ways, and will continue to do so after 2025:

Direct delivery: we will continue to run relatively small-scale, primarily volunteer-led activities ourselves, recruiting people through community engagement work. These groups, such as gardening, yoga, Work Club, art group and music sessions, reduce social isolation and reduce people's stress by providing easily accessible informal support.

Partnership working: we will maintain and grow our work alongside partner organisations in Revoe, focusing on direct support to address issues that cause stress and are wider determinants of health. In the last 12 months we have hosted or funded services including: the Blackpool Centre for the Unemployed benefits advice, Blackpool Council Food Parcel collections, Horizon alcohol support, Green Doctor insulation advice, independent housing advice, His Provision community pantry. We also refer people to other activities in Revoe such as the Memory Lane café, a Women's Group and Young at Heart, and have helped to set up new volunteer-led groups in the area such as the Revoe Minis. This will continue to be an important part of Revoelution's role.

Representation: A central role for Revoelution is to be a voice for residents of the area – this is one of our key Themes. We will encourage public sector bodies and larger voluntary sector organisations to make improvements and provide health and wellbeing services in the area. To have this influence we need to ensure that we continue to be recognised as truly representing the whole community in Revoe, reaching as many people as possible and constantly seeking feedback and ideas. This is likely to require the ongoing employment of community engagement and development staff.

Themes – Environment:

A poor environment is often mentioned when talking to residents; it worsens perceptions of the area and has a negative effect on people's mental health and attitude towards their community. Revoelution have carried out several activities aimed at improving the environment in Revoe – gardening, street art, litter-picking, and more. However, to have real impact it will be important to work with larger organisations. We have built a good working relationship with Blackpool Council and Envaco, we are community stakeholders for the Blackpool Central development and were the community lead on the Revoe Masterplan. We will aim to maintain and improve the effectiveness of these relationships beyond the end of Big Local funding.

Themes – Employment and Opportunities:

The area around the site of the George pub on Central Drive has the lowest average income in England, with high levels of benefits claimants and long-term sickness. An important element of improving the lives of residents will be to help them move towards employment. Our Work Club is popular, and we refer people to support providers such as MPT, but we are still reaching relatively small numbers of people. Over the next three years and after 2025 we will aim to strengthen our connections with support providers, trainers and agencies such as the Job Centre so that we can reach more people and make more referrals. We will also seek to have more effective links with employers such as Blackpool Central and look into measures such as targeted training, so that residents of

Revoe have fair and equal opportunities for employment. We will also work with advice organisations such as Blackpool Unlimited and Social Enterprise Solutions to help people set up their own businesses in the area; we have included a sum for this work in the current plan and if it is successful we will seek further funding to continue this work in the future.

Themes – Young People:

As explained in the Action Plan above, the Revoelution Partnership regard supporting young people in Revoe as a key priority for a number of reasons, and will aim to continue to do so after 2025. We have been successful so far, with the Revoe Minis having set up as an independent community group, the Juniors attracting good numbers of children each week, and running a wide range of activities for teenagers. We have also made connections with a number of external organisations through this work, such as LeftCoast, Get It Loud in Libraries, Skool of Street, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the National Literacy Trust. We will continue to seek relevant partners for our youth provision, and will hopefully find larger and more suitable premises for our sessions in the future.

Themes – Representation and Advocacy:

This Theme runs throughout our Plan and our Legacy vision. Revoelution needs to represent and advocate for the individual residents and the collective community in Revoe to fulfil its purpose and in order to survive. Once we have achieved our aim of becoming sustainable community-based charity in Revoe we hope to be able to share our skills and experience with others.

Community Building:

The primary focus of Revoelution's work after 2025 will be people rather than buildings. Our strength over the last seven years has been our reach into the community; the Partnership currently consists of nine residents, and since the start of the project 83 people from Revoe have been directly involved as Partnership members or regular volunteers. We also have a spreadsheet recording over 1,200 doorstep conversations and the issues and we have a team of 5 engagement workers talking to residents to understand their needs, concerns and interests. However, there is no doubt that more community space in Revoe would be beneficial to residents. Existing community spaces in the area are full – the Revoelution Hub is overused and there are very few available time slots at Ibbison Court Community Centre. Several potential partner organisations have expressed an interest in a facility on Central Drive over the past 12 months, including Blackpool Council's Public Health team, recovery agencies such as JFH and Horizon, LeftCoast, the Volunteer Centre, the South Family Hub and the Council's new Youth Service manager. Revoelution will continue to be involved in these discussions. We have included a sum towards a community building in the current plan but may not be able to use this money after 2025 – see Action Plan above.

Appendix 1:

A picture of Revoe in numbers

This data has been pulled from the Local Insight report for Revoe in March 2023. The data is from the ONS, 2021 census, or more recent surveys and estimates. Where data is more than 3-4 years old, this is explained.

POPULATION

3373 residents in 1470 households

More than 26% of the population is under 15 compared to the Blackpool average of 17.5%. The number of over 65s is half of the Blackpool average.

In Blackpool as a whole, 90.4% of the population is White British, compared to 75% in Revoe.

80% of the population was born in the UK

13% of the population was born in EU states

86.7% of the population are English speaking compared to 95% across Blackpool.

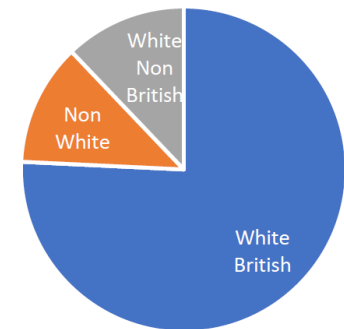
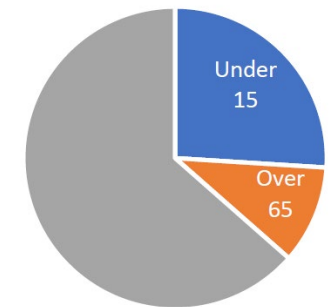
Revoe has 441 one person households under 65 and 202 lone parent households, which is more than 42% of all family households.

ECONOMY

The proportion of residents in Revoe on unemployment benefits is more than double the Blackpool average 26% of the working age population is in receipt of workless benefit (which includes incapacity) and have been for more than a year. The peak in unemployment felt across the country during Covid hit Revoe much more than the Blackpool average.

But the numbers receiving incapacity benefit are reducing and worklessness in the 16-24 age range was at the Blackpool average pre-pandemic. 21.3% of those on Universal Credit have no work requirements – the Blackpool average is 9.6%. 45% of these have mental health issues; 22.1% are on P.I.P.

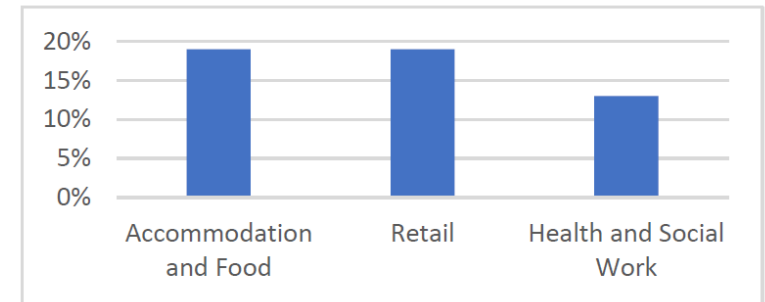
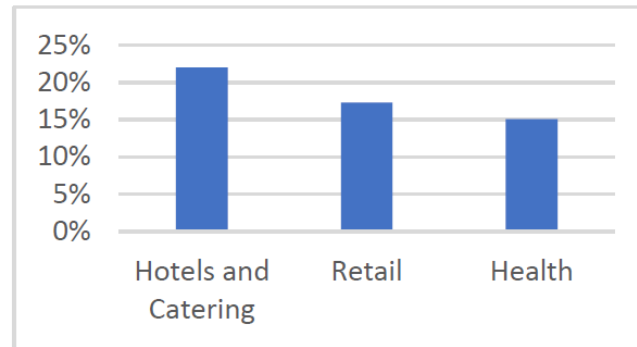
Revoe residents receive only 85% of Blackpool's average household income and 60% of England's average household income, after housing costs. This is the lowest in England. More than a quarter of Revoe residents are living in fuel poverty but they have less personal debt per head than in Blackpool as a whole.



We have data about where most Revoe residents are employed (but from 2011) and this looks like:

And this echoes what type of jobs there are in the area (from 2021):

JCP no longer uses this measure but in 2012, there were more than 20 claimants per job available compared to a Blackpool average of just over 7.



HOUSING

49.5% of Universal Credit households in Revoe are in receipt of the housing element with the Blackpool average being 19.3%. 89% of these are in private rented accommodation (the proportion of households in private rented regardless of benefit is 56%).

House prices in Revoe have fallen in the last two years even though they've gone up in England as a whole. 59% of housing was built before 1950 compared to 15% across Blackpool.

There are 105 Revoe residents per hectare compared to a Blackpool average of 40. (England average 4.3, London average 68.6, highest figures in London c.100).

HEALTH

Life expectancy in England for women is 83 years and for men is 80 years. In Revoe this becomes 79 for women and 70 for men – Revoe men, on average, will die 10 years earlier than the national average. As well as predicting when people will die, data also looks at what age people will remain disability free (as related to age). In Revoe, men will develop disabilities at 54 and women at 56.

Revoe residents are far more likely to develop lung cancer, coronary heart disease and respiratory disease than the Blackpool average and far more likely to be admitted to hospital, as an emergency or by appointment.

Residents are closer to a pub than on average but further away from a GP. There are no GP surgeries or clinics in the area.

CRIME

In the year to November 2022 there were 1 567 recorded crimes in Revoe, 527 that were violent and 514 that were anti-social behaviour. There were 475.3 crimes per 1000 population in Revoe, which is more than double the average for Blackpool. The UK average is 76 per 1,000 population.

EDUCATION

916 Revoe residents have no qualifications which at 37% is more than double the England average. Revoe residents are less than half as likely to have a Level 4 (degree level) or above qualification compared to the England average.

At Early Years, only 40% of children are reaching the expected targets compared to 52% across Blackpool. At Key Stage 2, the gap narrows but by Key Stage 4 (GCSE) it has widened again.

ACCESS

60% of Revoe residents don't have access to a car compared to 34% across Blackpool. The UK average is 22%.

Revoe has below average broadband speed and 66% of residents do not engage online compared to 28% across Blackpool.

MARCH 2023

Appendix 2 – payment schedule

Theme	Yr 1 Pay 1	Yr 1 Pay 2	Yr 2 Pay 1	Yr2 Pay 2	Yr 3 Pay 1	TOTAL
	July 2023	Jan 2024	July 2024	Jan 2025	July 2025	
Health and Wellbeing	20 000	20 000	20 000	20 000	20 000	100 000
Employment and Opportunities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Young People	7 400	7 400	7 400	7 400	7 400	37 000
Representation and Advocacy	0	0	5 000			5 000
Community Building	0	27 000	27 000	19 000	8 000	81 000
Fixed Costs	24 800	24 800	24 800	24 800	27 800	127 000
TOTAL	52 200	79 200	84 200	71 200	63 200	350 000