

SCOPE AND REMIT OF COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE AND ROLE OF AREA CHAMPION

To: **Communities and Partnership**

Meeting Date: **24th August 2017**

From: **Sarah Ferguson, Assistant Director, Housing,
Communities and Youth**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **Key decision:** **No**

Purpose: **The Committee is being asked to consider the future scope of the Communities and Partnership Committee and the role and remit of the Area Champion role.**

Recommendation:

- a) To consider and agree the proposed scope of the Communities and Partnership Committee**
- b) To note the future responsibilities of the Committee in relation to business planning**
- c) To consider and agree the proposed purpose and brief for the Area Champion role**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Communities and Partnership Committee Terms of Reference were confirmed at the Annual council meeting on 23rd May 2017, and considered at the inaugural meeting of the committee on 6th July. It was agreed that there would be no changes to the terms of reference at this time.
- 1.2 However, in order to inform the forward agenda plan for the Committee and business planning this report proposes some further clarification of the scope and remit of the Committee. Following on from discussions held at the 6th July Committee, included in the report are some proposals for the role and remit of the Area Champions for Members to consider.

2. MAIN ISSUES

Scope of Business for Communities and Partnership Committee

- 2.1 The Terms of Reference of the Committee make provision to 'jointly deliver or / and commission services for communities where it makes sense to do so, aligning resources and expertise around an agreed set of outcomes in order to make the most of public sector funds'.
- 2.2 The Committee will play a key role in the Council's commitment to managing demand, with a clear intent to focus on making an impact on delivering defined outcomes. As such, and through further discussion with the Chairman of the Committee and in the context of the evolving Communities Network of partner organisations (Chaired by the Executive Director for People & Communities), it is proposed that the Committee should specifically focus on the following areas of business during its first year of operation:

Community resilience

- *Helping the Council to manage demand through focussing on:*
 - Information, advice and guidance for communities who want to develop stronger self-sustaining communities to reduce reliance on statutory services
 - Vulnerable people's housing, particularly homeless families, in order to reduce the use of expensive and unsuitable temporary accommodation
 - Partnerships with the voluntary and community sector to increase community capacity to help people help themselves
 - Volunteering opportunities to reduce reliance on paid services
 - Use of assets to support the delivery of the Community Resilience Strategy
 - Workforce development in the context of public sector reform
 - Community based activities to address well-being and inequalities, including poverty and community cohesion
 - Tackling worklessness to help improve health and wellbeing including mental health

Community Safety

- Reducing the impact of domestic and sexual violence

- Reducing the impact of anti-social behaviours on vulnerable people and communities
- Targeted youth support to reduce the likelihood of young people becoming involved in criminal or anti-social behaviour and increasing access to life enriching activities

Innovate and Cultivate Fund

- Supporting community capacity building and promoting innovation through investment in ideas which are likely to reduce the need for more costly services and which enable people and communities to help themselves. It is proposed that the elected member of the Recommendation Panel for innovation funding be drawn from this committee.

- 2.3 The Committee will have responsibility in the business planning process for a number of services covered within the remit outlined in 2.2, but for the purpose of decision making in relation to budgets, this will include the Youth and Community Engagement Services and the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Team, including the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service.

Role of Area Champions

- 2.4 The role of Member Area Champions has been agreed, with a draft terms of reference attached as Appendix One. The remuneration for these roles was agreed at Full Council on 17th July 2017.
- 2.5 Members are invited to comment on an initial proposed focus for the work of the Area Champions (subject to need in each District/ City) as potentially being drawn from one of the following priority areas: the role of the voluntary and community sector; family homelessness; community cohesion around places; provision of community based services for young people; child poverty; and impact of domestic abuse.
- 2.6 It is proposed to appoint the following Members as Area Champions, which reflect the political control held in each District Council administration:
- Cambridge City – Councillor Elisa Meschini (Labour)
 - Fenland – Councillor Steve Tierney (Conservative)
 - East Cambs – Councillor Lis Every (Conservative)
 - South Cambs – Councillor Lina Joseph (Conservative)
 - Hunts – Councillor David Wells (Conservative)

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

The business of the Committee will support the Council's focus on developing the resilience and capacity of individuals and communities as set out in paragraph 2.2 in the report which will have a positive impact on the Council's Corporate Priorities.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

The business of the Committee will support the Council's focus on developing the resilience

and capacity of individuals and communities as set out in paragraph 2.2 in the report which will have a positive impact on the Council's Corporate Priorities.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

The business of the Committee will support the Council's focus on developing the resilience and capacity of individuals and communities as set out in paragraph 2.2 in the report which will have a positive impact on the Council's Corporate Priorities.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The Committee will play a key role in the business planning process as described in section 2.3.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

No response received.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The work of this Committee will ensure the appropriate focus is placed on disadvantaged, isolated or excluded communities and individuals, and those from the protected characteristic groups. The Area Champions role will be particularly relevant to ensure delivery at a local level.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The focus for the Communities and Partnership Committee reinforces the County Council's commitment to developing and delivering on its Community Resilience Strategy, a key vehicle for Localism. Member engagement and leadership is a core aspect of the strategy. The development of the role of Area Champions provides an enhanced role for Members to engage at a District level on key aspects of its delivery.

4.7 Public Health Implications

This proposal will impact on the health and well being of Cambridgeshire communities. The scope of the Communities and Partnership Committee will impact on public health including health inequalities through influencing both the wider determinants of health and health

behaviours. The Area Champions proposal is a means to expedite delivery in local communities.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Tom Kelly
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?	Yes Name of Officer: Paul White
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Yes Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan
Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes Name of Officer: Christine Birchall
Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Councillor Steve Criswell Name of Officer: Elaine Matthews
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes Name of Officer: Tess Campbell

Source Documents	Location
Terms of Reference for Communities and Partnership Committee	Council Constitution Part 3(b) Responsibility of functions of Committees of Council 3B14 pages 1-2 Contact: rob.sanderson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Democratic Services Room 117, Shire Hall, Cambridge

APPENDIX ONE



Area Champions' role description

Representation and Community Leadership

The Area Champion is a role that has been created as part of the newly formed Communities and Partnership Committee. The purpose of the Area Champion is to enhance the representation and community leadership aspect of the role of individual Members, paying particular attention to areas of interests for the Committee in the 5 Cambridgeshire Districts.

Stronger Together – the County Council's Strategy for Building Resilient Communities is a priority for this Council. The strategy underpins the Council's approach to demand management with the responsibility for it's delivery sitting with the Communities and Partnership Committee. It will be the role of the Committee and the Area Champion to specifically identify areas of success and areas for improvement within its remit, where a greater impact could be made. The Communities Network officers group will provide a route to engage with the wider network of partner organisations on relevant issues.

The areas of focus to be ratified and confirmed at Committee on 24th August for the Committee are:

Community resilience

- *Helping the Council to manage demand through focussing on*
 - Information, advice and guidance for Communities who want to develop stronger self sustaining communities to reduce reliance on statutory services
 - Vulnerable People's housing; particularly homeless families to reduce the use of expensive and unsuitable temporary accommodation
 - Partnerships with the voluntary and community sector to increase community capacity to help people help themselves
 - Volunteering opportunities to reduce reliance on paid services
 - Use of assets to support the delivery of the Community Resilience Strategy
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Community Safety

- Reducing the impact of domestic and sexual Violence Reducing the impact of anti-social behaviours on vulnerable people and communities

- Targeted youth support to reduce likelihood of young people becoming involved in criminal or anti-social behaviour and increase access to life enriching activities

Innovate and Cultivate Fund

- Supporting and promoting innovation through investment in ideas which are likely to reduce the need for more costly services and which enable people and communities to help themselves. It is proposed that the elected member of the recommendation panel for innovation funding be drawn from this committee.

With the support of the Committee Chair and Vice-chair, the role of the Area Champion which may vary from place to place depending on local needs and priorities but is likely to include on behalf of the Committee, to:

- Gain a deep understanding at a District/ City level through discussion with officers and local members where appropriate, of key issues which impact on demand for County Council services
- Focussing on relevant issues for the District/ City, report back to Committee and the Communities Network on areas of strength and areas for improvement which would strengthen impact on outcomes.
- Provide challenge to the Committee, the Council, and partner organisations on whether we are doing everything possible to address the issue within available resources
- Demonstrate leadership by engaging with communities and other elected representatives for relevant Divisions as needed across the District/City so people's voices are heard and self-sustaining communities are encouraged
- Work with partners, stakeholders, community groups and representatives to develop relevant actions and creative responses to identified need
- Be an ambassador for community based provision across the District/City;
- Share good practice in strengthening communities across and between Districts/City, county wide and where appropriate nationally;
- Ensure new ways of working and new models of service delivery are shaped by and where appropriate commissioned from community groups and organisations.

Support for Area Champions

Area Champions will operate independently, with some support from the Strengthening Communities Manager, but will have access to service leads and resources to support research and the development of plans and priorities.

The Area Champions will meet monthly to provide updates, share and develop thinking.