

COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Thursday, 26th October 2017

Time: 2.00 p.m. to 3.35 p.m.

Present: Councillors: D Ambrose Smith (substituting for Councillor Every), A Costello, S Criswell (Chairman), K Cuffley (Vice-Chairman), L Every, D Giles (substituting for Councillor S Taylor) J Gowing (substituting for Councillor Joseph), I Manning, E Meschini and S Tierney

Apologies: Councillors: L Dupre, L Every, L Joseph, and S Taylor

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Costello to her first meeting of the Committee following her appointment in place of Councillor Wells.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

21. MINUTES 24th AUGUST 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th August 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

22. MINUTES ACTION LOG

The Committee noted the updates provided for actions arising from the last two Committee meetings.

With respect to the update on the membership to the Innovate and Cultivate Bid Assessment Board and the number of substitutes proposed, the Chairman cautioned that there was specialist knowledge to be built up when sitting on the Board to be able to assess applications against the criteria. He therefore hoped that wherever possible, the same lead Members nominated would be attending, as otherwise getting substitutes up to speed could result in undue delay.

It was resolved:

- a) To note the Minute Action log update.
- b) To note the updated Membership of the Innovate and Cultivate Fund Bid Assessment Board as detailed in the action log with the further addition orally reported at the meeting of three Conservative substitutes, namely Councillors Costello, Joseph and Tierney.

23. UPDATE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY

As this report had been published less than five working days before the meeting, the

Chairman agreed to take it under his Chairman discretionary powers.

Reasons for lateness, Officers needed to reflect service-wide demand and mitigation information in the report which required extensive consultation with a wide range of partners, following a meeting with the Leader, Committee Chairman and others within the days preceding the deadline.

The reasons for urgency being that it was a required report expected to come forward to the current Committee meeting and in order to meet the consultation timetable.

The report updated the Committee on activities to develop a new joint multi-agency Violence Against Women and Girls (domestic abuse and sexual violence) Strategy and action plan for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and to also raise awareness of implications arising for future community-based provision. It sought Members' comments on the Strategy and also whether the Committee should support the White Ribbon campaign.

Issues highlighted by the officer in his presentation included:

- Highlighting that Domestic abuse is a high risk / harm / cost issue impacting on all communities, individuals and agencies across Cambridgeshire as highlighted in the incidents statistics set out in the most recent data (Cambridgeshire *Violence Against Women and Girls* (VAWG) Needs Assessment, 2017) detailed in paragraph 1.1 of the report with the costs detailed in section 3.1 of the report. The same research showed that demand for relevant domestic abuse services was increasing year on year.
- Since 2012, the Home Office had progressed an End Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) agenda via two national strategies in response to international legislation. The 2016 – 2020 national strategy, which now covered all issues of domestic abuse and sexual violence, had included a new National Statement of Expectations (NSE) requiring local partnerships to undertake a VAWG needs assessment and develop a multi-agency strategy and action plan. The NSE's were detailed in paragraph 2.2.1 of the report.
- That in June 2016, the Cambridgeshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) had commissioned a countywide VAWG needs assessment to collate and present data on the context to, and prevalence of, VAWG across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to identify gaps in provision / need, to inform a joint VAWG / domestic abuse / sexual violence Strategy (included as a separate Appendix 1 to the report) which was due to be 'signed off' by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership's (DASVP) Delivery Board at their November 2017 meeting. The aim of the Strategy and plan was to "reduce the harms associated with Violence against Women and Girls and to prevent crimes from occurring within our communities" working to the national priorities detailed in 2.3.1 with the following three countywide priorities proposed for 2017-21:

- To develop a specialist countywide, outreach provision (beyond July 2018) which is community-based and accessible to all (this includes requests for service from internal and external partners)
- To develop a countywide, multi-agency domestic abuse unit to facilitate a 'single point of entry' to local specialist services, and to rationalise existing provision and pathways
- To ensure that accessible awareness-raising and community development / resilience-building resources and activities are developed and supported, especially those targeting specific demographics, such as young people and children, those from A8 communities (especially Lithuania), those from Black Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BMER) or Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer (LGBTQ) communities, older people, and those with disabilities.

Paragraph 2.3.3 set out the work being carried out to address the above areas.

- Considering exploring the development of a White Ribbon campaign locally which was an awareness raising activity designed to prevent violence against women and girls from occurring. A pledge to support the campaign resulted in either individuals or organisations identified as being ambassadors on behalf of the campaign.
- Providing details of the successful grant received from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) project, funded at £700k (£126k for 2016/17 and £574k for 2017/18), to provide a multi-agency response to enable victims of domestic abuse and their children to be appropriately supported to be safe, and to cope, recover and eventually move on from the abuse they had experienced. Section 2.4.6 of the report detailed the funding activity being undertaken with the grant highlighting that all Cambridgeshire's outreach provision had been this grant since 2016. The report highlighted that Community-based outreach provision, which included advocacy and support services, had been found to be effective in reducing costs associated with domestic abuse. The resource implications section of the report detailed the current allocations / contributions received to address domestic abuse, while highlighting that resourcing and maintaining current priorities would be extremely challenging once the grant ceased.

Issues raised in debate from members and questions asked included:

- With reference to the current preventative and awareness services work in schools (raising awareness of what constituted abuse and consent), asking how consent was taught to boys of school age and whether there were prescribed models for use by schools. In response, details were provided of the Healthy Relationships Group, a multi-agency group who helped support schools in this area by providing a practice framework based on the national consent model delivered free of charge to any schools requiring the service. In response to further questioning on whether all schools received the service, it was explained that the Group had to be invited into a school as most were no longer under local authority control. Thirty to fifty schools were visited each year which was limited by the above requirement and the resource available.

- With reference to the White Ribbon campaign asking was there anything the Council could look at in relation to its own employment practices which reduced the chances of abuse being undertaken by employees. In response it was explained that when the White Ribbon campaign started six years previously, the Council did revise its HR policies, including signing off a Domestic Abuse Policy, which had been endorsed by the Unions. As a result, the Council was already in a good place with its own internal HR policies.
- One Member queried that the report did not show where the monies to support the work came from and asked whether contributions were received from the district councils and the Police. In response it was explained that no money was received from either of these partners although they had been asked for contributions previously. Page 11, paragraph 4.1 of the report set out the detail of where the monies came from to support domestic abuse prevention work highlighting it was from core Council budgets and this had been the case since 2010-11. In further discussion on the issue, Members asked what could be done to approach partners to seek contributions on the basis that a reduction in domestic abuse was a saving to their own budgets e.g. Police, Courts Service, NHS. In response it was explained that the difficulty was that although the report provided details of the estimated benefits to the system if domestic abuse was reduced, the effects of a reduction in time and people resources in dealing with the crime and being able to deal with other priorities did not equate to an actual reduction in budget costs, and therefore it had been difficult in the past to make the case for monetary support. The Director of Communities and Safety suggested that details could be provided on the estimated saving and that these could go forward to partners to request additional funding via the County Wide Community Safety Partnership.
- It was suggested that Town and Parish Councils could also be approached for contributions.
- The Vice Chairman indicated his willingness to be considered for the role of a Community Safety Champion including championing a local White Ribbon campaign as he had a particular interest in championing an outreach programme to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence to women and girls. He strongly believed that there was often a lack of awareness in communities of the issues, and that this needed to be addressed by active promotion and education. If appointed, he would ensure regular progress reports back to the Committee. Councillor Ambrose Smith seconded the nomination. One Member made the comment that while he was not opposing the appointment, he suggested that as it was a domestic abuse strategy mainly involving women and young girls, that in the future, a female member appointment might be more appropriate. In further discussion the Chairman highlighted that the role of Community Safety Champion was a wider role than just domestic abuse, while another Member suggested that while he understood what was being said, it could be equally argued that a male appointment championing issues of abuse was in itself a powerful statement.

- There was agreement that the sign off paragraph for resource implications reading 'not applicable' was incorrect as a paragraph showing the resources implications and how the services would be resourced going forward was lacking in the current strategy document and was required when the report came back in December. This information should include opportunities that might be available through invest and save to partially pay for the cost of the Service.

It was unanimously resolved to:

- a) Note the priorities arising from the development of a new countywide domestic abuse / sexual violence strategy as set out in section 2.3 of the report.
- b) Note the implications arising from these priorities.
- c) Endorse the Strategy and priorities subject to the identification of additional resources on how the priorities of the Strategy could be resourced going forward, including investigating invest to save opportunities and to refer a revised version of the report to the Cambridgeshire Countywide Community Safety Board to highlight the need for additional financial support from partners.
- d) To agree to Cambridgeshire County Council supporting and developing a White Ribbon campaign including, where appropriate, a refresh of Human Resources (HR) policies.
- e) To appoint Councillor Cuffley as the County Council's Community Safety Champion.

24. LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017-2022

The Committee received an update of the draft 5 year Local Council Development Plan, developed in partnership with Parish Councils, District Councils and Support Organisations to help strengthen engagement and collaboration between Local Authorities and other organisations to support Town and Parish Council ambitions for their communities. Details were provided of those involved with the Stakeholder Group and the work undertaken which had included surveying Parish Councillors and Clerks. The results of the surveys had been used as the basis for the Plan (included as an appendix to the report currently titled to the year 2017-2021). Issues raised by this Committee at a previous meeting, including the need to improve training for parish councillors and support young councillors to help retain their enthusiasm and also now been incorporated.

The intention was that surveys of Parish Councillors and Clerks would be repeated every two years to measure improvement and change, and to allow officers to evaluate the impact and success of the overall collaborative approach. A measure of success would be the increased reach of all Local Councils and their ability to be proactive and to engage with those not currently seeking the support available. The expectation was that officers would be able to come back to Committee in a year's time with a progress report against the action plan.

Section 2.6 of the report detailed how the development plan would be resourced. As resources were minimal, this would include aligning resources already available and increasing their effectiveness by working in partnership. Examples of support being provided included:

- the comprehensive training programme for Councillors and Clerks delivered by The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Council Association (CAPALC);
- District Councils training and networking meetings;
- support provided the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC) to Clerks through training and mentoring; and
- Cambridgeshire ACRE's connected community-based programmes and neighbourhood planning service.

ACRE provided details of a new website (<http://www.cambsparishes.wordpress.com>) launched to improve access to information, resources and a joint calendar for events and training. Social media (Twitter @cambsparishes and Facebook) would also be used to drive forward a better networked online community of Local Councils. **Members making reference to this website highlighted that on viewing it included advertisements that needed to be removed. Action: Kirsten Bennett from ACRE agreed to follow this up.**

It was highlighted that the consultation deadline with Local Councils on the current draft development plan was 8th November. Following this and incorporating any final suggested changes, the intention was to launch a final version at the countywide conference being held at Burgess Hall on 17th November 2017. *(Note: Members of the Committee had on the 25th been invited to attend the launch)*

In discussion issues raised / comments made included:

- Members of the Committee positively welcoming the detail included in the draft Plan.
- Limited training resources should be targeted to town and parish clerks due to their isolation often having to work alone.
- A question was raised regarding whether there was still an aspiration to support Councils to achieve 'quality council' status. In response it was explained that this scheme had been withdrawn nationally and there had been understandable scepticism when the Government had tried to reinvigorate the scheme under a new title.
- The need to develop model job descriptions and payscales for parish clerks as there was currently no definition for either and that parish clerks were undertaking more duties than they were supposed to. In reply it was indicated that a model Job description was being looked at as part of the support work being undertaken and as there was a meeting of the Society for Local Council Clerks the following week, the issue of pay scales would be taken up with them.
Action: Kirsten Bennett from Cambridgeshire ACRE

- Members expressing their concerns regarding the amount of knowledge that local parish clerks were required to have due to the multiple roles they had to perform including often also being the financial officer and whether the County Council / other councils could help support parish councils with their HR functions such as recruitment and selection. In response it was explained that there were model induction and employment packs that could be provided which included model job descriptions, and best practice recruitment guidance. Sharing best practice was seen as the best way to help support parish clerks to carry out their duties.
- The Chairman highlighted on page 30 of the appendix (Page 42 of the sequential numbered agenda) on the action plan area of concern titled 'lacking communications *from* (currently incorrectly reading 'form') other tiers of local Government to local councils' the Committee had a role to encourage other members to support and engage with the 'Councillors as community connectors' Programme.

Having considered the detail of the draft Local Council Development Plan, it was unanimously resolved:

- a) To endorse the Draft Local Council Development Plan as part of the consultation.
- b) to support the proposed Development Plan action by encouraging and supporting County Councillors to connect with local councils by participating in the 'Councillors as Community Connectors Programme'.
- c) To receive a report back in a year's time setting out progress against the Action Plan.

25. SERVICE REVIEW OF DRAFT REVENUE BUSINESS PLANNING PROPOSALS FOR 2018-19 TO 2022-23

This report provides the Committee with an overview of the draft Business Plan Revenue Proposals for services that were within or were expected to become within the remit of the Communities and Partnership Committee.

The Committee was asked to comment on the initial proposals for consideration as part of the Council's development of the Business Plan for the next five years. Draft proposals across all Committees would continue to be developed over the next few months to ensure a robust plan and to allow as much mitigation as possible against the impact of the savings. Committees would be receiving an update to the revenue business planning proposals in December at which point they would be asked to endorse the proposals to General Purposes Committee as part of the consideration for the Council's overall Business Plan.

It was highlighted that for 2018-19 with a saving requirement of just over £37m there was still a gap of over £5.5m for which savings had still not been identified. While actions were being taken to close the funding gap, as detailed in the report it was highlighted that the proposals already identified were those with the lower risk and

impact profiles and the further options being considered were less certain, or had a greater impact.

The following budget areas had been identified as being, or following current restructuring exercises and changes to terms of reference, would be within the direct remit of the Communities and Partnerships Committee:

Service	Amount ('000's)
Strategic Management - Communities & Safety	-25
Youth Offending Service	1,618
Central Integrated Youth Support Services	449
Safer Communities Partnership	1,589
Communities & Safety Directorate Total	3,631

The budget took into account services moving in to and out of the Communities and Safety Directorate. This includes the transfer of the Multi-systemic Therapy service to Children and Safeguarding (£446k reduction) as well as the transfer of the Youth & Community Coordinators and Reach Fund from Corporate Services (additional £241k). Section 5 of the report describes the approach officers had developed for 2018/19 to enable other transformation proposals to deliver the commitments – addressing the financial challenge without cutting services.

The following areas had been identified as detailed in the report as the areas the Committee would like to have an impact in 2018/19 and future financial years:

- Community Safety
- Improving adult skills
- Engaging Communities and Community resilience

In terms of the Adults and learning Skills Service which would transfer to the Committee, this was currently a fully subsidised service.

It was proposed that the Committee should focus on areas of Council business where it could affect most positive change – for example, managing or reducing demand in social care, increasing foster carers, supporting the use of libraries as key community venues. It was reported that there were currently no plans to reduce the services listed at the current time.

Innovate and Cultivate Fund - The Committee was to have oversight of the fund, ensuring it focused on investing in good ideas which can improve outcomes for vulnerable people whilst reducing reliance on statutory services.

Partnerships - Ensuring that all areas of the Council were forming the right partnerships and maximising the benefits is a vital role for the Committee to play – including identifying cashable savings from partnership work.

Building our housing partnerships - Housing was a strategic priority for the Combined Authority, and the County Council had a vested interest in helping people who use our services to live in safe, warm and affordable housing, and working with District Councils and housing providers to achieve this.

There were a number of potential areas to explore with partners including maximising the potential of Council assets to support growth and demand. The Committee would also continue to work with statutory and voluntary sector partners to manage the continued implementation of welfare reform.

In addition to the proposals outlined above which fall within the remit of the Communities and Partnerships Committee, there were also a number of cross-cutting initiatives which were of relevance to all Committees. These were listed as:

- C/R.6.103 Automation (-500k in 2018/19)
- C/R.7.102 Fees & Charges (-80k in 2018/19)
- C/R.6.101 Shared Arrangements with Peterborough City Council (-300k in 2018/19)

The Chairman indicated that there was to be a deeper dive into the Committee's budget at the November workshop session.

Having commented, it was resolved unanimously:

- a) to note the overview and context provided for the 2018-19 to 2022-23 Business Plan revenue proposals for the Service.
- b) To note the draft revenue proposals that are within the remit of the Communities and Partnership Committee for 2018-19 to 2022-23.

26. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND TO ONE NEWLY VACANT AREA CHAMPION ROLE

This report invited the Committee to consider and agree nominations received to appointments to partnership and liaison and advisory bodies delegated to the Committee from General Purposes Committee. The latter Committee had considered that most of those listed would be appropriate appointments for the recently appointed Area Champion roles. In addition, a replacement was sought to the newly vacant Huntingdonshire Area Champion role as a result of Councillor Wells resigning from the Committee. Councillor Costello who had taken his place on the Committee indicated her interest in becoming the Huntingdonshire Area Champion.

It was highlighted that Councillor Tierney had declined the invitation to be nominated as the Area Champion in respect of the Fenland Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC) District Committee. With the agreement of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, an invite from Democratic Services seeking expressions of interest was sent to all the other County Council Fenland Members with Councillor Gowing responding to say that he would be willing to volunteer and had put forward his name for consideration by the Committee.

In respect of the nomination vacancy to the Hinchingsbrooke County Park Joint Committee, Councillor Sanderson and Councillor Downes as local members had initially been contacted and invited to submit an interest. As neither had been able to take up the offer, the Chairman proposed Councillor Tierney who, while not a local Member, was a regular Park visitor. No opposing nominations were received.

Having reviewed the nominations as set out in the appendix to the report and as no further nominations were offered for consideration,

It was unanimously resolved to:

- a) Agree appointments to the partnership liaison and advisory groups as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report with the addition of Councillor Tierney to be appointed to the Hinchingsbrooke County Park Joint Group;
- b) Replace Councillor Wells with Councillor Costello as the Huntingdonshire Area Champion.
- c) Delegate, on a permanent basis between meetings, the appointment of representatives to any outstanding outside bodies, groups, panels and partnership liaison and advisory groups, within the remit of the Communities and Partnership Committee, to the Director of Communities and Safety in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Communities and Partnership Committee.

27. ORAL UPDATES FROM AREA CHAMPIONS

The following updates were received

- a) **Councillor Every** – as she was unable to attend the meeting Councillor Every provided a written response which had been circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting and is included as appendix 2 to these minutes.
- b) **Councillor Tierney oral Report** - Updates were provided on work he was undertaking in the following areas:
 - Community Resilience - he was making contact with parish and town councils and was seeking an officer direct point of contact in each in order to facilitate future dialogue / actions. His aim was to visit every parish and town council in the district working in conjunction with the local members.
 - Liaison with Fenland and Wisbech Councils to look at ways to help homeless people.
 - Liaison with local voluntary organisations to seek ways of increasing volunteer numbers.
 - Instigating setting up a Lithuanian conversation class with volunteers from the community working with other councillors and the public to improve dialogue with one of the largest European communities in Wisbech (as Latvians also spoke the language) to help with bringing different communities together and which could roll out further, if successful.

- On Community safety / liaison – looking at providing an improved offer on youth provision and exploring grant funding opportunities.
- He had recently completed first aid and defibrillator use courses.

c) Councillor Meschini Oral Report

Councillor Meschini explained she had been undertaking considerable research into who to liaise with as there were so many complexities in such a large and diverse city as Cambridge, and unlike Districts there are no parish councils but other representative bodies to think about. She thanked Elaine Matthews for the help she had received during this initial stage. She was intending to undertake closer working with Councillor Joseph due to the close links already in place between City and South Cambridgeshire. She was currently working closely with Cambridge City Councillor Richard Johnson and through him had been introduced to officer contacts from the City Council who were very enthusiastic regarding working with a liaison County Councillor.

Her current priorities included:

- Helping with new communities' integration in North City, as well as beyond just Cambridge in South Cambridgeshire (with Cllr Joseph).
- Growth and the pressures associated with it.
- A joint approach to providing services for children and young people and involving young people in developing their interest in volunteering and local council representation – she had already been successful in being invited to a number of the schools in the city.
- Community Centre development – she had visited all the centres located in the Cambridge area.
- Community resilience work - she indicated that the City Council were very keen to participate in a joint approach with the County Council.
- Working towards bringing together different faith groups and would be attending a City Council organised Faith Partnership workshop on 15th Nov.

28. COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN

The published Agenda Plan was noted and along with the following changes orally reported since the published version included on the agenda:

- Adult Skills and Learning Self- Assessment report this had been taken off from the workshop / seminar in November. Clarification was being sought on whether it required to be a report for decision to the Committee but was likely to be an initial information update item for the proposed January workshop.
- Finance added as an additional topic to the November workshop to enable a deep dive into the Committee's budget detail.
- Adult Skills Supporting Communities to Grow' moved from the December meeting to January as it would be an information item.
- Budget monitoring reports would commence bi-monthly from December.

29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that there would be a workshop on 30th November 2017. The next formal Committee meeting would take place on 21st December 2017.

Chairman