

REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

To: **Communities and Partnership Committee**

Meeting Date: **27 September 2018**

From: **Adrian Chapman, Service Director: Communities and Safety**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **Not applicable** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To report on the achievements of, and key areas of focus for, the Committee over the past 12 months, and to summarise the priorities for the next 12 months.**

Recommendation:

- a) To note and comment on the progress made by the Committee since its launch in 2017**
- b) To endorse the recommended priorities, alongside those set out in the Committee's delivery plan, as described in section 2.9**
- c) To suggest any new priorities that the Committee wishes to prioritise for the next 12 months**

<i>Officer contact:</i>	<i>Member contacts:</i>
Name: Adrian Chapman Post: Service Director: Communities and Safety Email: Adrian.Chapman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 07920 160441	Name: Cllr Steve Criswell Post: Chairman Email: Steve.Criswell@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Tel: 01223 706385 01487 740745

1.0	BACKGROUND
1.1	The Communities and Partnership Committee was established in 2017, in order to deliver the County Council's ambition to build stronger self-sustaining communities, as expressed in our Community Resilience Strategy, in order to benefit residents, communities, the whole council and our partners.
1.2	The Committee's role includes working together with the Mayor, Combined Authority, district councils, town and parish councils and other partners to design and deliver services which best meet the needs of those communities, and to deliver or jointly 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.
1.3	The Committee is also responsible for direct service delivery for the County Council's Strengthening Communities, Adult Skills and Community Safety services, including the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence service.
1.4	<p>At the August 2017 meeting of the Committee, members agreed to focus on a set of key issues during its first year, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Resilience • Community Safety • Innovate and Cultivate Fund
1.5	<p>Subsequent to this, at the April 2018 the Committee developed these key issues and agreed a new, more detailed Delivery Plan with a focus on four main priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building and sustaining community resilience • Tackling deprivation • Economy and skills • Partnership working <p>The priorities were, in part, informed by discussions with the Chairs and Lead Directors of the other service committees which were held to discuss the priorities of each of them, and to identify key aspects of their work that the Communities and Partnerships Committee could have a positive impact on.</p>
1.6	Since its launch, the Committee has met on eight occasions (excluding the September 2018 meeting), and has also held seven development workshops.
2.0	MAIN ISSUES
2.1	The following section describes the key achievements of the Committee aligned to its agreed priorities.
2.2	<p><i>Building and Sustaining Community Resilience</i></p> <p>The primary aim of this priority is to ensure our communities are offered the right opportunities to develop their own capacity and resilience, to become more active in</p>

	<p>their local areas, and to play a key role in the way services are designed and delivered in and for their communities.</p> <p>For the Council and our partners, demand for many of our statutory services is increasing, particularly in relation to both adults and children's services. The Committee is focussed on leading community based models of delivery and support that prevent and delay this demand, and in turn offer more sustainable solutions for service users that help them remain at home or in their own community for longer.</p> <p>In relation to these principles, the Committee has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the Council's Stronger Together community resilience strategy, and agreed the delivery focus for the subsequent 12 months. These discussions also led to the agreement to develop a system-wide community resilience strategy – 'Think Communities' - which is being presented to the Committee at its September 2018 meeting • Reviewed the early delivery of the original Innovation Fund and relaunched the modified Innovate and Cultivate Fund (ICF) programme to ensure maximum reach and impact. Since then, the Committee has endorsed funding for nineteen new projects with a further cohort due to be considered at its September 2018 meeting as part of the revised approvals process • Reviewed and reduced bureaucracy associated with volunteering and community participation, working with colleagues in the Passenger Transport service to review and recommend changes to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) process for Community Car schemes. The review was conducted with community partners in keeping with co-production principles • Reviewed the Council's approach to tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence, alongside that of our partners. These discussions led to the agreement to identify Cllr Kevin Cuffley as the Community Safety Member Champion, to apply for White Ribbon status, and to agree a new partnership Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy. A report on White Ribbon is being presented to the Committee at its September 2018 meeting • Considered the findings of a survey of town and parish councils, and agreed to the production of a new Local Council Development Plan. This Plan was subsequently discussed and approved at the October 2017 Committee meeting • Agreed a formal response to the Government's consultation on the Integrated Communities Strategy
<p>2.3</p>	<p><i>Tackling deprivation</i></p> <p>It is recognised by the Committee that this is a very broad priority, and deprivation cannot be tackled in isolation from the work being delivered by our communities and partners. In the spirit of wanting to make a positive difference as quickly as possible, the Committee have agreed to focus on tackling poverty in the first instance, working closely with the district councils, the voluntary and community sector, and others who are engaged in similar work.</p> <p>In relation to these principles, the Committee has:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the current strategy to tackle poverty across Cambridgeshire, and agreed to form a cross-party working group to review our approach in more detail, to work with partners in the district councils, and to develop new projects, policies and delivery arrangements that reduce poverty and the impact of poverty in our communities. The working group has now met on two occasions, has agreed a shortlist of practical projects that are being developed, and agreed a forward plan of future meetings in quick succession to drive this priority forward Reviewed the current status of the Wisbech 2020 programme, for which the County Council is a key partner, and agreed that the Tackling Poverty working group referred to above also considers our response as part of this programme A full report on progress made towards tackling poverty will be presented to Committee at a later date
2.4	<p><i>Economy and skills</i></p> <p>Alongside the Committee's specific service responsibility for the Adult Learning and Skills Service, it is also keen to influence the broader adult skills strategy across Cambridgeshire. The adult skills landscape is complex and is changing, with responsibility for key parts of it being devolved to the Combined Authority. The Committee has been keen to secure the Council's position as a key strategic partner in this context, as well as one of the main providers of adult skills delivery.</p> <p>In relation to these principles, the Committee has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the Council's Adult Learning and Skills Service, and its relationship to the broader adult skills landscape across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Committee agreed to adopt the Skills Blueprint as an interim skills strategy whilst a new strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough was produced Agreed to the formation of a new delivery model for the Council's Adult Learning and Skills Service, which will establish the service at arms-length from the Council. This will help position the service to better respond to new opportunities, and to diversify into new areas of business including those that may be more commercially focussed. The new service will exist in shadow form until final recommendations come back to Committee later this year to seek agreement to operate fully at arm's-length Members have been involved in developing specific actions that support the skills development and employment of people with learning and other disabilities and people with mental health conditions. There has been significant progress in this area which, recognising the cross cutting nature of the priority, will be reported to both this Committee and to Adults Committee. There has been particular interest in the Council becoming a beacon of good practice in the employment of adults with learning difficulties and autism, and for working with the British Association of Supported Employment (BASE) to provide more informative data to reflect our successes.
2.5	<p><i>Partnership working</i></p> <p>The Committee has a unique role to help ensure that all of our partnerships are effective and are adding value to our work and that of our partners. The Committee is</p>

	<p>determined not to replicate or replace the work of other Committees in relation to partnership working, but to support existing arrangements and develop new ones where it is helpful and productive to do so.</p> <p>In relation to these principles, the Committee has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted the responsibility to oversee the Shared and Integrated Services Transformation Programme, which is pursuing opportunities to collaborate on relevant services with, primarily, Peterborough City Council. The Committee will receive regular reports setting out the opportunities and challenges associated with this programme, the next being due at the October 2018 meeting • Held discussions, via the Chairman and Lead Director, with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to establish a clear and effective working relationship, and to identify and agree some common delivery objectives. This work remains in development, and it is anticipated that further detail will be presented to the Committee at its October 2018 meeting • Held early discussions with the Council's Chief Executive and the Chair of the Cambridgeshire Public Services Board (CPSB), to establish a relationship between the CPSB and the Committee that supports the redesign of public services
2.6	<p>The Committee has also led the development of the Area Champions in their new role, and a separate report on their achievements to date is being presented to the September 2018 Committee.</p>
2.7	<p>Additionally, the Committee reviewed the 2017 approach to public consultation on the Council's budget proposals, in order to inform the approach taken in subsequent years.</p>
2.8	<p>As previously referred to, the Committee has also spent considerable time in workshops to create a deeper understanding of its responsibilities and to agree the priorities it wishes to focus on. The key themes discussed at these workshops include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A deep dive on deprivation and poverty across Cambridgeshire • Detailed discussions on the role of the Council in relation to adult skills, community safety, domestic abuse and sexual violence, and community cohesion • A discussion with the former Chief Executive and senior officers from the Combined Authority, to create a clear understanding of our respective roles and responsibilities • A discussion in relation to the roles and responsibilities of the key partnerships that exist across Cambridgeshire, including the Community Safety Partnerships, Safeguarding Boards, Senior Officers Communities Network, and the Health Care Executive • Increasing awareness of community-focused council services and discussing the opportunities to strengthen their role in relation to community resilience, including the key role of libraries in communities, our role to support new (growth) communities, and understanding domestic abuse and sexual violence services

2.9	<p>For the remainder of the current municipal year, the Committee will continue to drive forward work to meet its agreed priorities, and it is proposed that, in addition to the actions set out in its delivery plan, it especially focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opportunities it has to lead the work to prevent and delay demand for services across the Council and the wider public sector • Establishing some collaborative delivery arrangements with the Combined Authority in relation to shared objectives • Firmly establishing the new delivery model for Adult Skills that now exists in shadow form • Ensuring the Shared and Integrated Services programme is driven forward to benefit both Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils, our partners and our communities • Actively contributing to the public services reform agenda where appropriate
3.0	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES
3.1	<p>Developing the local economy for the benefit of all</p> <p>The Committee's focus on adult learning and skills, and on tackling deprivation and poverty, are directly contributing to the development of the local economy.</p>
3.2	<p>Helping people live healthy and independent lives</p> <p>The Committee's role to support the development of community resilience, and on providing services to victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, are directly contributing to the health and wellbeing of our communities.</p> <p>Additionally, the work the Committee is leading to prevent and delay demand for statutory services will, in many instances, enhance independence for our residents by enabling them to receive the support they need in their own home or their own community.</p>
3.3	<p>Supporting and Protecting Vulnerable People</p> <p>The Communities overall focus is on ensuring residents and communities that are vulnerable or are at risk of becoming so receive the right services and support, and that positive and lasting change is achieved with and for them.</p>
4.0	SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS
4.1	Resource Implications.
	There are no significant implications within this category.
4.2	Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications
	There are no procurement implications.

4.3	Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications
	<i>[input awaited]</i>
4.4	Equality and Diversity Implications
	There are no significant implications within this category.
4.5	Engagement and Communications Implications
	There are no significant implications within this category.
4.6	Localism and Local Member Involvement
	There are no significant implications within this category.
4.7	Public Health Implications
	The work undertaken by the Community and Partnerships Committee addresses many of the wider determinants of health and the services that affect health; it helps to identify the key local barriers to improving health and reducing health inequalities and appropriate solutions.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Paul White
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Yes or No Name of Legal Officer: <i>response awaited</i>
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: Matthew Hall

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?	Yes Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes Name of Officer: Tess Campbell

Source Documents	Location
<i>None</i>	