

COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Thursday, 15th February 2018

Time: 2.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors: A Costello, S Criswell (Chairman), K Cuffley (Vice-Chairman), L Every, J Gowing (substituting for Cllr Tierney), L Joseph and I Manning

Apologies: Councillors: L Dupre, S Taylor and S Tierney

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

41. MINUTES 21st DECEMBER 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st December 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

In respect of the action under Minute 33 'Innovate and Cultivate Fund Recommended Applications', the Members of the Committee with secure County Council e-mail addresses had been sent on 13th February confidential details of the unsuccessful applicants from the December Recommendation Panel as previously requested. (Officers were following up whether those without County Council e-mail addresses wished to receive the information in a different format)

Regarding the Adults Skills Report originally scheduled for the current meeting, this had been rescheduled for the April Committee meeting. This was due to the Committee's revised terms of reference, which included formally transferring this work area from Economy and Environment Committee's current remit, requiring to be agreed by both Constitution and Ethics Committee and the next ordinary full Council meeting, with the latter not meeting until March.

42. CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL APPROACH TO CONSULTATION ON THE BUSINESS PLAN

This Committee on the 26th October 2017 agreed the approach on the consultation on the Business Plan proposals for 2018/19. This follow up report summarised the final findings of that consultation exercise.

The consultation involved two stages:

- Stage 1 – focus groups, to take a deep look at issues residents considered important in relation to how the County Council approached business planning.
- Stage 2 – a representative household survey and open web survey on draft business plan proposals and options for council tax.

From the focus groups there was positive feedback regarding measures for prevention over the long term, and for building resilience through the use of measures such as the Innovate and Cultivate Fund. Participants had rejected selling land for revenue generation, preferring retention for income generation. They were also against a Council Tax increase, while highlighting the need for greater communication on where it was spent and why services seemed to be decreasing. The focus groups could not agree on which Business Planning measure should be prioritised.

Regarding the household survey on the question “on average per month, how many hours they spend giving unpaid help to groups, clubs, or organisations in their community” 16% of residents indicated that they provided unpaid help and support; of which almost two fifths (38%) provided on average 5 hours or less per month, with the detail as set out in the report. This was considered likely to be on the low side. Significantly fewer residents in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire were willing to provide unpaid time compared to other districts and fewer residents aged 65-84 were willing / able to provide additional unpaid time compared to other age groups, particularly those in the 25-44 and 55-64 age groups. What was clear was a great deal of volunteering work depended on a few individuals who volunteered up to 60 hours a week.

It was highlighted that those engaged in voluntary work were often more likely to support Council tax rises and valued council provided services, having more awareness of what they involved. Those in the younger age ranges had less contact with Councils and therefore often did not see, or appreciate their benefits. People were very supportive of the NHS and Adult Services, being services they had a better understanding of and recognising the benefits they provided.

In discussion

- With reference to map 1 on page 29 of the agenda, one Member queried the reasons for the lower number of people taking part in the consultation from Fenland (15%) and East Cambridgeshire (13%) compared to other parts of the County (Huntingdonshire 27%, Cambridge 21% and South Cambridgeshire 23%). It was explained that this was by design, as it represented their population share of the County, to ensure a representative sample was sought.
- In respect of future policy challenge, one Member raised ‘Gamification’ (*note: the application of game-design elements and game principles in non-game contexts ... to encourage engagement with a product or service*) as an approach that could help establish methodology, whereby Members could be involved in suggesting ideas for inclusion in computer gaming generation scenarios to help people visualise the impact of different budget proposals. The Committee supported this as an option to help increase community participation and asked that it be further investigated by the lead officer. **Action: Mike Soper.**
- The need to review the length of the Council Tax question and in future, look to providing background comparative information on previous years’ Council Tax details.

It was resolved unanimously:

- a) To note the findings.
- b) To receive a report on the proposed consultation approach for the next Business Plan at either the June or July Committee meeting.

43. INNOVATE AND CULTIVATE FUND RECOMMENDED APPLICATIONS

This report set out both the details of the Innovate and Cultivate Fund created to support projects and ideas to help address the needs of local residents, and the recommendations from the January Innovate and Cultivate Fund (ICF) Recommendation Panel who had reviewed the applications received.

The report reminded the Committee of the following two funding streams:

- **Cultivate:** small grants of £2,000-£10,000 aimed at encouraging local networks where people help themselves and each other. This was a single stage application process, with applications recommended by the Panel to Committee to confirm the recommended award.

- **Innovate:** larger grants of up to £50,000, for larger projects that demonstrated an innovative approach within one of the seven key priorities for Cambridgeshire. This was a two-stage application process and those recommended by the Panel at the end of the second stage were placed before the Committee to confirm the recommended award.

A total of eight completed applications for the Cultivate Fund had been received in the current round, along with five second stage applications for the Innovate Fund. Each application had been considered in full by the Recommendation Panel on 30th January 2018 with reference to the agreed criteria. A summary of each of the recommended Cultivate Fund applications was detailed in Appendix One to the report.

In discussion one of the Panel Members noted that there was no reference in the report to those applications not being recommended for approval, making the point that a member of the public would be unclear to what the process was for unsuccessful applications. It was clarified orally that the administrators of the Fund, Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, always wrote to unsuccessful applicants with the outcomes of the application review and an explanation of where they did not meet the qualifying criteria. The lead officer agreed that future reports would make reference to the process for notifying unsuccessful applicants. **Action: Elaine Matthews**

It was resolved unanimously to:

confirm agreement to fund through the Innovate and Cultivate Fund the following:

Four applications from the Cultivate Fund:

- Godmanchester Town Council: Godmanchester Timebank - £5,426
- South Cambridgeshire District Council: Through the Door project - £10,000
- Stretham Youth Club: 3159 Young At Heart - £4290

- The Cambridgeshire Police Shrievally Trust: Supporting Vulnerable Families & Children - £10,000

Four applications from the Innovate Fund

- Age UK Cambridgeshire & Peterborough: Friendship Clubs - £32,740
- Care Network Cambridgeshire: Connected Communities £49,475
- Cambridgeshire Deaf Association: Volunteer Manager £50,000
- The Resilience Group (Blue Smile, CFMS & Relate Cambridge): Stronger Families – Building Resilience £31,055

44. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE STRATEGY

This report provided the Committee with an update on Cambridgeshire County Council's Community Resilience Strategy, 'Stronger Together (2015 – 2017)' that had created a framework for building community resilience within which decisions and actions could be taken across the whole of the Council. It supported a fundamental shift of emphasis - from a focus on need and service provision, to a focus on mobilising the energies and strengths within communities with an emphasis on behaviour change and making people think differently.

A report on delivery against the framework was received by Committee in July 2017 and the current report updated and summarised the significant achievements during the lifetime of the Strategy against the following six key areas.

- People helping people.
- Communication
- Council Members
- Our workforce
- Community spaces
- Partnerships.

Building community capacity was now a shared goal across the public sector. In addition to often delivering better outcomes, it was also an underpinning driver to manage demand into more costly services. While many public sector and voluntary organisations were already supporting community based work, more could be undertaken through aligning planning and resources at a local and Countywide level. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Senior Officers Communities Network had already created a forum where this activity could be understood and shared across partners, and where activity could be commissioned and delivered to best meet need.

It was highlighted that discussions at the Communities Network, had indicated a willingness to develop a new, joint Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Resilience Strategy with the opportunity to involve other public sector partners, and could help provide one voice for the public sector. This was to be discussed at the next meeting of the Communities Network and subject to the proposal being supported across the wider Partnership, the Committee was asked to support the development of a revised, joint Community Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

With reference to the achievements under paragraph 2.2 titled 'Communication', Councillor Manning asked to be given more details of activities undertaken through the Communities Highways Volunteering Scheme, of which an example provided at the meeting was volunteers undertaking civic pride activities such as cleaning road signs which could not be a priority for the Council at a time of stretched resources. **Action: Elaine Matthews to follow up outside of the meeting.**

Having discussed the report contents,

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note the achievements of the existing Community Resilience Strategy.
- b) Support the development of a revised and shared Strategy between Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

45. WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN (WRC)

This report provided the Committee with an update on progress in seeking White Ribbon Accreditation for Cambridgeshire County Council, the mission statement being to end male violence against women and girls, men and boys. To wear a White Ribbon was to pledge never to commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence. The message to men being to practice tolerance, respect and kindness, and to stand up against male violence, bullying and sexism in all forms. The ethos of the campaign being that men need to join women and women's organisations in taking action to end the problem of men's violence against women and girls (and other men and boys).

In seeking to gain accreditation by the autumn, the Council was committing to implement the White Ribbon action plan (included as an appendix to the report which was a national template adapted to Cambridgeshire's identified priorities). This was to be overseen by the White Ribbon Implementation Group chaired by Cllr Kevin Cuffley the County Council's Community Safety Champion. The intention was for a further update on progress on the Plan to be brought back to Committee in September prior to its accreditation submission.

It was highlighted that at the time of the report preparation the White Ribbon Implementation Group had:

- Appointed a senior officer responsible for leading activities and liaising with WRC UK
- Agreed the role the Member Ambassadors against Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) would play on behalf of the Local Authority
- Set up system to monitor progress of action plan and report back to WRC
- Implemented a revised domestic abuse policy for staff.

The focus for the next six months would be:

- Recruiting and training four Ambassadors
- developing the role of Community Champions to ensure they were able to increase awareness and understand what was available for those suffering from domestic abuse and sexual violence.
- To embedding the Domestic Abuse Policy within the Human Resource Team and ensuring managers were aware of the Policy.

In discussion on the Action Plan issues raised included:

- page 83 – reading “Ensure the local authority commissions education programmes about domestic abuse that are directed towards boys within PHSE curriculum” two members challenged why this only specified boys, as it was also important to ensure that education programmes should highlight to girls what should be considered appropriate conduct, to ensure that they were able to manage relationships and were not pressured into undertaking activities against their will, or behave in a certain way to be accepted or to be popular.
- Page 84 Ambassadors and advocates – clarification was sought regarding whether these were staff ambassadors or member ambassadors. In response it was explained that the proposal was to look for four ambassadors from outside the Council in high profile public positions to be role models. As a result recruitment was being sought from areas as the entertainment / sport sectors, to ensure they had wide appeal.
- Page 85 – Communication Strategy – One Member suggested that there was no information shown regarding working with partners / providers on commissioning safe refuges for women. In response, attention was drawn to page 82 under the title ‘Domestic Abuse Strategy’ reading “Ensure there is a commissioning strategy in place that provides adequate housing and community support services for women and children experiencing / fleeing domestic violence”. It was agreed that the wording of this could be made more explicit. **ACTION:**
Sarah Ferguson
- Page 86 under 6. Additional Actions reading ‘Work towards setting a zero limit on sex encounter venues (Lap dancing)’ - there was a request for clarification of what this meant and whether it was enforceable in law, as well as how it would be enforceable where such clubs were already in place. The explanation was that the intention would be to work with district partners to look at adopting policies that made it clear that establishments such as strip clubs and lap dancing clubs were not welcome in the County, with the assumption that they would not be approved, or if this was not permissible under legislation, that they should be restricted to one area. The Vice Chairman further explained the reasoning being that such clubs led to sexual exploitation, which was a form of abuse and in some cases was shown to lead on to prostitution. The aim was to

seek better regulation on licencing to ensure policies were in place to safeguard employees and to ensure they were not being forced into activities against their will. **It was agreed that the section should be reworded for clarity. Sarah Ferguson**

- Regarding the above, one Member suggested that the best way to safeguard employees was for a strict code of conduct, so that customers were made fully aware of what constituted inappropriate conduct. If there had been something similar in place at the Presidents Club, the unsavoury episodes reported recently in the press would not have happened, as those undertaking inappropriate behaviour would have been ejected by security. His view was that the Council should also look to reviewing some of the top shelf magazines available in shops which was easier to access and some of which contained very worrying content.
- Councillor Manning in thanking officers for refreshing the HR Policy requested that he was provided with details **Action: Adrian Chapman / Sarah Ferguson**
- One Member made the point to ensure that the action plan was not excluding the transgender community.

It was resolved unanimously:

- a) To provide Member support to the White Ribbon Campaign.
- b) To make clarification changes to the Action Plan as suggested at the meeting.

46. COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP AND TRAINING PLAN

Having commented,

It was resolved

To agree the training plan and forthcoming workshops with the following changes:

15th March workshop – delete ‘Targeted Youth’ and have a new opening half hour slot ‘Draft Delivery Plan for Committee’ presenter - Adrian Chapman

The above changes would allow a longer slot for libraries – title to be changed to ‘New Vision for Libraries’ the session to expand on the vision agreed at Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee on Tuesday with Area Champions and the Committee to be invited to consider how the vision could be supported and to help identify local partners to help facilitate it and support the priority areas within the Committee’s remit.

April afternoon workshop - The invite to be extended to all Members of the Council.

47. COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN

It was highlighted that going forward the Plan would be further populated, especially following consideration of the Draft Delivery Plan for the Committee report due to be considered at the March workshop and April Committee meeting.

It was resolved:

- a) To formally approve that the 15th March reserve Committee date be cancelled as a public committee meeting to be replaced by a Member training workshop.
- b) To note the published Committee Agenda Plan with the following additions orally reported at the meeting:
 - 17th April – add 'Draft Delivery Plan for the Committee Work Programme' Report lead Adrian Chapman
 - 27th September – add 'White Ribbon Accreditation Decision Report' – Report lead Sarah Ferguson

Note: the Revised Community Resilience Strategy report currently included for the April Committee meeting was likely to need to move to a later meeting slot.

48. ORAL UPDATES FROM AREA CHAMPIONS

The Committee noted brief oral updates provided by the following Councillors:

Councillor Every

Who briefly outlined work being undertaken with other Councillors and on projects including:

- the restructuring of the Community Safety Partnership,
- the Youth Strategy Board
- the Skills Agenda.

Councillor Every also highlighted that she had recently been made aware of an exciting new voluntary group seeking to encourage and support additional volunteers, the details of which she would be sharing with officers outside of the meeting.

Councillor Joseph

Indicated that she had attended a number of meetings with partners to help push forward the Committee's change agenda.

Councillor Costello

Indicated that she had attended a considerable number of meetings to learn about what was already established and to discuss opportunities for the future. She was currently working with various partners to introduce an innovative project initiated in South East Cambridge to provide toiletries for both young males and females. She was also undertaking various activities to help publicise the Committee's Vision.

49. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 10 A.M. 17th APRIL 2018

Having now agreed to cancel the formal March Committee meeting and to hold a member workshop in its place, it was clarified that the above April meeting would be the next formal Committee meeting open to the public, rather than the 31ST May Committee meeting, as incorrectly stated on the agenda. *(Note: The latter meeting was also still currently scheduled to take place)*

Chairman
17th April 2018