

COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Thursday, 27th September 2018

Time: 10:02 am – 12:36 pm

Present: Councillors: S Criswell (Chairman), K Cuffley (Vice-Chairman), L Dupre, L Every, J French, L Joseph, I Manning, C Richards, T Sanderson and D Wells (substituting for A Costello).

83. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies received from Councillor Costello, substituted by Councillor Wells.

Councillors Every, French and Richards declared a non-statutory disclosable interest in Minute No.89: Area Champions Annual Review, in their capacity as Area Champions.

84. MINUTES – 5TH JULY 2018 & ACTION LOG

It was resolved unanimously to:

Approve the minutes of the meeting of 5th July 2018 as a correct record.

An oral update to the Action Log was provided and included as Appendix 1 in these minutes.

Members queried whether the agreement to share papers and minutes from the new Adults Skills Service with the Communities and Partnership Committee (Minute 74) also applied to the shadow board currently in place, seeking clarification over whether the board had already met, when the next meeting would occur and whether the papers and minutes had been provided to the Committee. Members were informed that the shadow board met for the first time the previous day, September 26th, and that the same rules applied with the shadow board, with the minutes to be circulated as soon as they were drafted. The date of the next meeting had not been confirmed but the board was likely to meet on a monthly basis until March. Members requested a list of the meeting dates when available. **Action**

85. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None received.

86. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE – THE THINK COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

The Committee received a report detailing the shared approach agreed by Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Huntingdonshire District

Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire Police for working together as organisations, and supporting and distributing resources for their collective aims when building community resilience. In presenting the paper, officers noted that the Committee, as well as all other parties, had previously agreed on the principles of the shared approach and that the document was not intended as a lengthy strategy statement although it covered a wide scope of aims and ambitions. Members were advised that while the different partners would also work on their own programmes, the strategy aimed to harness the individual strengths of each party to build a collective approach that worked effectively.

In discussing the report Members:

- Queried what was meant by hidden communities in the Places section of the appendix. Officers noted that the term referred to communities that were often not included or feel that they were not included and do not have a voice and that the idea was to raise awareness of such communities while trying to be as inclusive as possible.
- Suggested that it was important to ask residents what issues were important to them and where their priorities lay in order to provide a wider foundation and greater empowerment to the Council's work. It was noted that such involvement was fundamental and should be embedded throughout the Think Communities strategy.
- Expressed concern over the level of resources available to carry out the strategy and the fact that decreased funding might have had a detrimental impact on the ability to achieve the aims.
- Sought further clarification regarding funding and delivering Highways maintenance activity as mentioned in section 2.6 of the report. One Member suggested that the Council sometimes made decisions that worked against community resilience, for example charging £500 for a consultation with a Highways officer, which the Chairman asked to be followed up on. Officers also committed to circulating a comprehensive clarification regarding the Highways maintenance activity and it was suggested that a link to the Think Communities strategy could be provided on the governance website to increase access to and knowledge of the principles. **Action**
- Proposed working with Street Pride groups by providing funding and support. Officers noted that they worked with and supported as many groups as possible, bringing separate conversations into one collective discussion to support any issue that might be raised.
- Considered how interaction should be carried out with the Senior Officers Communities Network and whether the Committee could influence what was included on that body's agenda in a transparent way. It was noted that the group consisted of around thirty senior officers at a director level from across the public and voluntary sector and had been formed to work together across the community, with the different approaches taken by the various bodies challenged by reductions in funding making it important to work together and harness their varied capacities. It was suggested that officers investigate the role between the Communities and Partnership Committee and the group becoming formalised. **Action**

It was resolved to:

Agree the Think Communities Partnership shared approach included as Appendix One to the Officer's report.

87. WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

The Committee received an update on White Ribbon which included information on its accreditation process as well as an action plan for the next two years. The report detailed White Ribbon's work on tackling male violence through prevention and urging men to pledge not to commit violence and to not stay silent on the issue. Officers presenting the report noted that although there were male victims and female perpetrators, the overwhelming tendency was for violence inflicted by men on women, while explaining that the action plan was necessary in order to eventually apply for re-accreditation in two years. Attention was drawn to White Ribbon Day (25th November), which would be preceded by the announcement of several male ambassadors on International Men's Day (19th November), including Councillor Kevin Cuffley from Cambridgeshire County Council, Detective Superintendent Martin Brunning from the police, Active Learning Trust chief executive Gary Peile and a local musician. In discussing the report Members:

- Queried whether the funding was sufficient to fulfil such objectives as supporting those escaping abuse, mentioned in section 2.1 on page 50 of the report, given the increase in demand for services. Members were informed that the number of referrals and demand of caseloads was constantly monitored and while short term funding had been received from the government, further bids for additional funding were under consideration. It was noted that the Council provided funding to shelters and refuges and that maintaining the support was essential but that the funding of such services was complicated by the fact that they crossed council borders. Members were advised that such issues were on the national agenda and a meeting was to be held in 6 weeks, at which an update would be provided. **Action**
- Sought clarification on whether the police used the correct approach when acting as the first respondent to cases of domestic abuse. It was noted that training was being undertaken across the country regarding dealing with domestic abuse but it was important to make sure the front line services were aware of how to identify cases and then how to respond them, with specific concerns over police methodology of questioning victims. Members were informed that standard questioning is followed but the interviewers were trained to ask in discrete and tactful ways. It was also noted that the police had identified domestic abuse as one of their top priorities, dedicating extra workforce and training to the issue, while inviting organisations such as White Ribbon to participate in discussions.
- Considered how the area champions could provide support in their corresponding areas and informed the officers that they would discuss this further. Members were informed that White Ribbon had received support from many councils and that it was heartening to hear that the campaign would be championed locally.

- Suggested that the phrase “individuals in vulnerable circumstances” could be used instead of the phrase “vulnerable individuals” in future papers and discussions.
- Pointed out that while it was important to remember domestic violence sometimes involves women inflicting violence on men, it was also important to note that the issue arose in relationships between people of the same sex and that focus should not fall exclusively on the male/female relationships. It was further suggested that the objective to encourage all staff to take the pledge, as mentioned on page 45 of the report, should not have the suggested focus on male staff. The presenting officer noted that this policy was based on the White Ribbon general ethos, but assured Members that they actively tackled the different forms of domestic violence mentioned during the discussion. It was also noted that these areas were considered in different reports and by different organisations, with the focus of this particular report being White Ribbon and its specific work.
- Considered whether they could do anything to deal with the fact that a large number of people suffering housing problems were women who had escaped abusive relationships, asking whether it could be made easier for them to navigate the system and know who to turn to when finding themselves in trouble. Officers identified the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) and the Bobby Scheme as two projects tackling this issue, adding that housing providers were encouraged to become accredited in the process to help make it easier for victims.
- Considered the after effects and subsequent costs on society as a result of domestic violence, taking note of mental health, children affected at schools, policing issues and NHS involvement. It was noted that while a large part of the work was taking on these challenges, it was important to maintain focus on identifying potential perpetrators and helping them to avoid confrontations before they occur.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Continue Member support to the White Ribbon Campaign.

88. INNOVATE AND CULTIVATE FUND RECOMMENDED APPLICATIONS

The Committee received a report detailing the applications recommended for funding through the Cultivate Fund, which was set up to assist projects that address the needs of residents across Cambridgeshire and help reduce pressures on Council services. Drawing attention to the report’s appendices, it was noted that a total of 24 projects had received support from the funds, with a total of almost £550,000 already distributed. Members were advised that the next deadline for fund applications was 1st November, while details were given on the successful drop in session hosted in March that offered potential applicants the opportunity to present their ideas and discuss them with a service lead to see if they were suitable for funding. It was noted that the end of year evaluation would be coming to the Committee in November and this would detail how the fund would be shaped in the future to provide better value to the Council.

In discussing the report Members:

- Considered access to the services provided by the Cinnamon Network, a project funded by the Innovate fund which supports churches across Cambridgeshire to start models of social action to reduce pressure on front-line Council resources. Members expressed concern that people of different faiths or denominations might feel discouraged from accessing the service despite not being inherently excluded and if that were the case it was important that they were still able to access alternative front line resources. It was noted that these concerns had been discussed with the Cinnamon Network and also that this project was not replacing face to face provision but rather extending it and strengthening the community.

It was unanimously resolved to:

Confirm agreement to fund the following two applications through the Cultivate Fund:

- Disability Huntingdonshire – Focus on Older People
- Romsey Mill – Aspire

89. AREA CHAMPION ANNUAL REVIEW

The Committee received a review of the role held by Area Champions and their activities carried out since their appointments in August 2017 in order to consider their outputs and achievements, as well as providing an opportunity for Members to suggest priorities for the coming 12 months and consider changing the name of the role. The officer presenting the report drew attention to Appendix Two, which contained summaries written by the individual Area Champions pertaining to their experiences and achievements within the role. It was noted that actions carried out by Area Champions were usually starting off points for much longer term actions to be pursued by other organisations and bodies. The Chairman suggested that it would avoid duplication if on this occasion the monthly reports at agenda item 12 could be subsumed into reports for the Annual Review under this item.

During the discussion:

- The Cambridge City Area Champion drew attention to the points she had raised in her report in Appendix Two, especially regarding Child and Family Centres, the City Faith Partnership workshop and the need for more faith groups to go in to schools, as well as the provision of senior living accommodation in new developments. She also expressed enthusiasm over how the city and county councils had worked together to lower homelessness levels across Cambridge.
- The East Cambridgeshire Area Champion observed that working together as champions was fundamental in ensuring added value and increasing effectiveness. She added that the workload had changed dramatically over the year and the list of projects she mentioned in her report in Appendix Two did not include those that were proposed and considered on a daily basis, many of which

she did not take on but which she signposted to people and organisations that would be able to help develop the ideas. She drew attention to the Youth Strategy initiated in Ely, Littleport and Soham, work carried out with Community Safety Partnership Members and other areas, stressing that it had been exciting holding the role and that the momentum must be maintained.

- The Fenland Area Champion noted steps taken to challenge levels of homelessness and poverty, while drawing attention to the Chatteris Wellness Support group.
- The former South Cambridgeshire Area Champion expressed her disappointment in no longer holding the role while emphasising its value in connecting organisations in a way that did not occur with individual Members without the unity or feedback that the champions enjoyed. She noted that tapping into communities in this way was a forward thinking project that would be replicated across the country while suggesting that it was good value for money, with the area champion being compensated less than a third the salary of an officer dedicated to the role. She expressed regret that her role had not been filled from the pool of candidates that were all strong at dealing with communities and pushing projects, pointing out that the residents of that district had lost out as a result of not having the area champion representing them.
- Members noted that the scheme was about adding value as opposed to replacing staff. One Member praised the work carried out by area champions but questioned whether the role itself was necessary for such work to be carried out.
- Suggested various areas to be considered for new priorities, including probation, utility companies such as energy and water, children and establishing how the champions' roles sat alongside those of the rest of the staff in the Council to ensure that goals and priorities were aligned.

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the outputs and achievements of the Area Champions since their appointment.
- b) Agree the priorities set out in the Area Champions role description in appendix 1 as the continued focus for the next 12 months with an additional request to work with utility companies as part of the poverty reduction agenda.
- c) Approve a change in name from Area Champions to Community Champions [named district].

90. REVIEW OF SUPPORT CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The Committee received a report outlining the achievements from the second year and priorities for the third year of the agreement with Support Cambridgeshire, a consortium which brought together nine separate organisations together to increase efficiency and effectiveness. It was noted that the report showed the project had been successful and

although challenges had arisen, the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) were all feeling more confident in themselves and in the future than ever before, with some feeling that they were thriving and adapting with others trying new things and diversifying. Members were told that while the Council was consulted on priorities, the needs and wants of the VCS drove the focus of the programme.

Presenting officers drew attention to the following five areas of work mentioned in section 1.3 of the report, elaborating on the year's progress in each area:

- Town and parish councils had worked together to provide support to each other and Support Cambridgeshire had assisted parish councils in accessing funding and while financial challenges had been prevalent, the multiple sources of funding had helped.
- Volunteering and social action was a new area of work and after starting slowly had picked up in the second year and looked beyond traditional approaches to volunteering through training, networking, funding and group work. A successful 'Love it, Hate it, Shape it' model had been developed to find out what people cared about where they lived, and Support Cambridgeshire helps people to do something about it. Difficulties had arisen in trying to encourage large businesses to participate in smaller projects that are not run by national charities.
- Voice and representation recognised the need for education and good conversation between all the different parties, working together and understanding what everyone was working towards, although it had proven difficult to understand and align the different strategies and priorities.
- Information and advice levels received a 95% satisfactory rate from its users, with challenges including how to contact all the groups within in the community and reaching people before they enter into crisis.
- Support for village and community facilities was crucial because these were places in communities often run by volunteers where people could gather and access services. Much of this advice and support could be provided by partners and pro-bono services but this cost more when committees asked for more complex legal advice.

Appendix 1, titled 'Support Cambridgeshire Annual Report September 2017 – August 2018' and referred to in the body of the report, was tabled at the meeting and had been included as Appendix 2 to these minutes. When presented, attention was drawn to the information presented in the 'Impact' section and Members were informed that the figures would improve as the usage of data was developed. It was noted that throughout the third year it would be crucial to ensure sustainability, deepen the relationship with the VCS, develop links with Peterborough, increase efficiency, work together with all the parties collaboratively and eventually look beyond 2020.

In discussing the report Members:

- Questioned the working relationship between 'Support Cambridgeshire' and 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils' (CAPALC). It was noted that the two organisations worked as partners to bring operations together to

give a rounded approach and although they worked together on some things, the aim was to work on everything together.

- Reacted positively to the presenting officer's passion, knowledge and understanding of the area and suggested that success depends on that.
- Suggested working alongside campaigns with key aims, such as Refill. It was also suggested to work with utility companies and to obtain volunteers from large organisations for action days and other events and Members were told that Support Cambridgeshire already worked extensively with such groups and companies.
- Requested more information on targets for areas such as numbers of volunteers and areas of work in the following report as well performance monitoring. Officers noted that the full report included more information on these areas but that they would take the requests into consideration when writing subsequent reports.
- Were informed that Support Cambridgeshire had networks embedded throughout local communities across Cambridgeshire and used these networks to connect with groups in need of help. Working with these networks involved establishing what they needed and working towards that with them.
- Expressed interest in the events held by the group and developing ties on a local level, with attention drawn to the Support Cambridgeshire website which provided information on upcoming meetings and programmes. Members also looked at how to help extend the 'Love it, Hate it or Shape it' campaign through the public sector as a partnership-focused movement that was not being pushed by the Council and it was noted that it was an ideal campaign to work alongside other projects.
- Encouraged Support Cambridgeshire to work with Think Communities partners, noting that Think Communities developed a shared approach with the public sector partners in the first instance and once agreed with partner administrations it will be appropriate for Support Cambridgeshire to engage more directly as well as through their membership of the Senior Officers Communities Network.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note key achievements as outlined in Support Cambridgeshire's Annual Report (September 2017 – August 2018).
- b) Endorse the Council's priorities for Support Cambridgeshire as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the Officer's report to further strengthen the Voluntary and Community Sector for the coming year.
- c) Note the potential future joint approach between Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to further improve outcomes and efficiencies.

91. REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Committee received a report that provided a review of the Committee's first year since being formed in 2017, including key achievements and future priorities. In the report's presentation, Members were congratulated for becoming a cross cutting and strategic committee that made good achievements in a short space of time, while demonstrating a unique set of knowledge on partnerships across the region and Combined Authority. It was noted that senior officers were all looking at the Committee as a role model for changes and with all the directorates contributing to the agenda, the ambitious plans for the future were reasonable.

In discussing the report Members:

- Expressed confidence that the relationship with the Combined Authority would improve and develop as roles were defined and positions filled on a permanent basis within the Combined Authority.
- Agreed on the success and benefits of many of the Committee's projects as well as the working of the Committee itself, although some Members expressed concern over the founding principles of the Communities and Partnership Committee by arguing that the same results could have been achieved by the other committees separately.
- Considered domestic abuse and the need to focus on prevention rather than dealing with the after effects, with counselling such as anger management being a key step in preventing violence in the first place. It was noted that there was an item planned for the October meeting that would consider community safety and it was suggested that the report could touch on these issues. **Action**
- Drew attention to the new developments and communities that were appearing across Cambridge, suggesting that people were largely unaware of their existence, with Trumpington Meadows given as an example. Members agreed that it was important to make sure that support was provided in these new areas where it was especially difficult to access services that had not been fully incorporated or set up yet. It was suggested that focusing on this area could be added to the Committee's priorities for the coming year.

Having provided comments it was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note the progress made by the Committee since its launch in 2017.
- b) Endorse the recommended priorities, alongside those set out in the Committee's delivery plan, as described in section 2.9 of the report.
- c) Suggest the following priorities for the next 12 months:
 - i. To undertake exploratory work with the police on anger management courses being used as a preventative tool to reduce incidents of domestic abuse.

- ii. To be made aware of the facility requirements for new communities, to help influence increased community resilience.
- iii. To review the progress of partnerships.

92. PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES RISK REGISTER

The Committee received a report on the People & Communities Risk Register, which highlighted the key strategic risks from across the whole Directorate that impact on people and communities. Attention was drawn to risks 13 and 17 from the report as being particularly relevant to the Committee but it was noted that all of the risks were of interest. Members were informed that the register was reviewed on a monthly basis and was therefore up-to-date and live.

In discussing the report Members:

- Considered risks 2 and 11 in the report which identified the failure to provide school access within a reasonable distance to all children of a statutory school age and the danger of children and young people not reaching their potential regarding educational attainment respectively. The role and effectiveness of the Cambridgeshire School Improvement Board was questioned and while it was acknowledged that the Committee did not want to impose itself on other committee's agendas and projects, Members expressed interest in the officer investigating the Children and Young People Committee's approach on the issue. **Action**
- Raised concerns over the amount of funding and grants given to agencies in regards to risk 7 mentioned in the report and whether the funding was properly and effectively spent. The officer was asked to also follow up on this issue with the Children and Young People Committee. **Action**
- Considered the Committee's role in respect to other committees across the Council, noting that it should not serve as a scrutiny committee and it should not infringe upon responsibilities held by other committees. Members noted that risk 13 in the report centred on the failure of key partnerships, most of which involved other committees and that this demonstrated the Communities and Partnership Committee's role of ensuring that other committees were successful which was effectively a form of oversight. It was also noted that bureaucratic barriers existed across the neighbourhood, including with regards the Council, police and the NHS, when it came to overcoming many issues, which was part of the reason for the issues raised in risk 13.

Having commented on the report, it was resolved unanimously to:

Note the People and Communities Risk Register.

93. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT – JULY 2018

The Committee received the July iteration of the finance and performance report for People and Communities, with attention drawn to the fact that not all of the budgets contained within it were the responsibility of the Communities and Partnership Committee. Members were informed that of the forecast overspend of £4,365,000, none of it was attributable to the Committee and its causes were laid out in the report and would be monitored across the rest of the financial year. Attention was drawn to the Communities and Partnership Performance Indicators that were still being collated and the Savings Tracker that would provide an update at the end of the quarter.

In discussing the report Members:

- Questioned whether there was a time scale on when information would be forthcoming regarding the new performance indicators with it also suggested that they were too narrow in scope given the broad remit of the Communities and Partnership Committee. It was noted that the indicators had been established before the Committee was formed and there was agreement that they should be reconsidered while input from other committees should also be taken into consideration. **Action**
- Questioned the process review of the Home to School Transport system mentioned in section 2.2 of the report and whether it was intended to reduce service levels. The officer informed Members that the routes being used were under consideration, as well as the contracts in place in a bid to increase efficiency and improve the service without reducing the levels of the service itself.

Having reviewed and provided comments, it was resolved to:

- a) Note the report.
- b) Review the four new Communities and Partnership performance indicators to enable more detail to be provided with reference to timescales and targets and to review whether additional ones should be added.

94. ORAL UPDATES FROM AREA CHAMPIONS

Updates were provided as part of the Area Champions Annual Review report. See Minute 89.

95. COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP AND TRAINING PLAN

The Committee's workshop and training plan was reviewed and it was noted that the next workshop would be held on 14th February 2019.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Note and agree the Workshop and Training Plan.

96. COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN

The Committee's Agenda Plan was reviewed and Members were informed that the report on antisocial behaviour that would be presented in October had changed its title to 'Hate Crime – Extent of Issue and Partnership Approach', as requested at the last workshop. Attention was also drawn to the mention on page 166 about the reports from the Cambridge University Science and Policy Exchange due at the November meeting.

With the title change of October's report taken into consideration, it was resolved unanimously to:

Note and agree the Agenda Plan.

97. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING – 18TH OCTOBER 2018

Chairman

Minutes Actions 5th July – Oral update provided at the meeting.

1) Minute 74 - DELIVERY MODEL FOR THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE ADULT LEARNING AND SKILLS SERVICE

- There was a request for clarification on access / accountability issues to board papers / minutes being circulated outside of the meeting.
- Response – *The new adult skills service, currently in shadow form, remains accountable to the County Council via this Committee. Board papers and minutes of meetings will be provided to C&P Committee Members for their information and scrutiny, and any subsequent queries and questions are welcomed, directed to the lead Director in the first instance. Additionally, there will be two full and formal reports to the Committee each year describing the work of the service, key developments, challenges and risks, financial and performance information, and future opportunities.*

2) Minute 75 – POVERTY STRATEGY

The following additional appointments were made to the cross party Tackling Poverty Working Group:

- Cllr. Topping – Representing the Health Committee
- Cllr. Batchelor – Representing Economy and Environment Committee

3) Minute 76 – WISBECH 20/20

- Concern was expressed at the proposed cost of the team, as Fenland District Council had also been approached for a £50,000 contribution. As the total cost appeared to be in the region of £100,000, Members asked whether a more appropriate mechanism to pay for this dedicated officer support would be from top slicing from the projects, with a suggestion that the whole package should be linked to economic development, especially as there was no longer in-house support available from Fenland. The officers agreed that this suggestion and consideration of other funding options would need to be looked at further and brought back to a later meeting.
- Response – *Subsequent to the July Committee meeting, a full time worker from Anglian Water has been seconded to Fenland District Council to act as programme manager for the Wisbech 20/20 programme. The costs of this post are met by Anglian Water. The Tackling Poverty Working Group of this Committee has also met with the programme manager and the FDC lead director to discuss progress on the programme and to agree how the County Council can support continued delivery in Wisbech. The recommendations and actions from the working group will be presented to a future Committee meeting, and this will include a full update on the Wisbech 2020 programme.*

4) Minute 77 – INNOVATE AND CULTIVATE FUND RECOMMENDED APPLICATIONS

As promised in the report, details of the unsuccessful applicants were provided in a confidential e-mail to the Committee by Democratic Services on 6th July.