

LOCALISM

To: General Purposes Committee

Meeting Date: 1st July 2014

From: Corporate Director: Customer Services and Transformation

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: N/A **Key decision:** No

Purpose: To seek the Committee's views on the potential appointment of a lead Member to maintain an overview of localism across the Council.

Recommendation: The Committee is asked whether or not it wishes to appoint a lead Member for Localism.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its meeting on 15th April 2014, Cabinet discussed a report on the Council's approach to localism, which summarised both the principles and the initiatives being implemented. In this context localism relates to initiatives designed to empower communities to do more for themselves. It does not rely solely on the definition and initiatives contained in the Localism Act, rather on a shift in culture and grassroots community action.

2. LOCALISM IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

- 2.1 In endorsing the report, Cabinet acknowledged that:

- The benefits that can be reaped by embracing Localism include:
 - Improved health and wellbeing;
 - Communities which are more active and resilient;
 - Long term savings (through preventative action).
- Localism is central to the Members' role. Members are champions for their residents, amplifying their community's voice and managing expectations.
- The Council has been developing its approach to localism over the last three years. An early paper 'Taking Localism Forward' (November 2011) set out a starting point.
- The new Customer Services and Transformation Directorate structure, implemented last autumn, recognised the success of embedding localism and community engagement activity across the Council. The consultation led to the removal of a number of posts including the Service Director: Community Engagement (Fenland) and Head of Community Development. A new Head of Service post was created covering a wider remit – Communications, Community Engagement, Digital Engagement and Research and Performance Management.
- A small Community Engagement Team was formed comprising two Community Engagement Programme Managers, supported by one Community Engagement Officer. The role of the Team is to co-ordinate activity across the authority, implementing and initiating good practice, with a focus on the following three areas:
 - Piloting new ways of working to inform and influence service delivery;
 - Working in partnership with other organisations to deliver Localism;
 - Working with colleagues across services to develop their Localism activity and embed new ways of working.

- 2.2 In addition to endorsing this approach, Cabinet agreed that the 'Significant Implications' section of the new Committee report template be amended to include a section on 'Localism and Local Member Involvement'. There was a discussion about whether there was a need to put in place arrangements to maintain a strategic overview of Localism initiatives in order to ensure integration between services, primarily the appointment of a Lead Member for Localism. It was agreed that this was a matter for the new committee to determine.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

There are no significant implications for this priority.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

It is recognised that inequalities will emerge as more active communities seize opportunities. The council recognises the importance of allowing things to be done differently in different places if that is what local people want.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The appointment of a lead Member with specific responsibility for localism will assist in maintaining an overview of 'localism' and community engagement.

4.6 Public Health Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

Source Documents	Location
Report to Cabinet on 15th April 2014: Localism	Room 114 Shire Hall, Cambridge