

COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Thursday, 21st December 2017

Time: 2.00p.m. to 2.50p.m.

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

Apologies: Councillors: A Costello and I Manning

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Every declared a personal interest in item 5 - Innovate and Cultivate Fund Recommended Applications in respect of one of the applications (Ely St Johns Primary School) and took no part in the discussions or voting on that particular application.

31. MINUTES 26th OCTOBER 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th October 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

32. MINUTES ACTION LOG

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

It was resolved:

To note the Minute Action log update.

33. INNOVATE AND CULTIVATE FUND RECOMMENDED APPLICATIONS

This report set out the details of the Fund and the recommendations of the Innovate and Cultivate Fund (ICF) Recommendation Panel which had met in early December to review the applications that had been received. The Innovate and Cultivate Fund has been created to support projects and ideas to help address the needs of local residents. It is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in and outside of Cambridgeshire as well as Cambridgeshire public sector bodies.

As part of the officer introduction or in response to questions raised, the following information was provided:

There were two funding streams:

- **Cultivate:** applications to this were for small grants of £2,000-£10,000 aimed at encouraging local networks where people help themselves and each other and involved a single stage application process, with applications recommended by the panel put before Committee to confirm the recommended award.

- **Innovate:** this stream was for larger projects with grants of up to a value £50,000, for those that were able to demonstrate an innovative approach within one of the seven key priorities for Cambridgeshire. This involved a two-stage application process and the recommendation from the Panel following the second interview stage would be presented to the Committee to consider confirming the recommended award.
- Elaine Matthews the Strengthening Communities Manager presenting the report highlighted that at the December Panel meeting she had declared a personal interest in respect of the Houghton and Wyton Timebank Project application being a volunteer with that Timebank and although was not involved nor aware of the application to the fund, she took no part in any discussions or scoring for that application.

All applicants to the Fund were required to demonstrate a number of stated criteria including:

- how their project will help to deliver one or more of the County Council's key outcomes,
- show how they will reduce pressure on council services and/or offer direct savings for the council,
- be either new, or build on an existing project in a new location or with new beneficiaries.

A total of 30 complete applications were received in the current round, 12 for the Cultivate Fund and 18 for the Innovate Fund. Each application had been carefully considered by the Recommendation Panel which, in accordance with the Committee decision of 24 August 2017, had been made up of two County Council Service or Assistant Directors, the Chief Finance Officer, a senior officer involved in managing the fund, a trustee of Cambridgeshire Community Foundation and four cross party elected members (drawn from the pool of five nominated from this Committee's membership).

Four applications to the '£2,000 -£10,000' Cultivate Fund were recommended for funding for the Committee's final decision. A summary of each of the recommended applications was detailed in the report's Appendix. It was explained that applicants had to score a minimum of 65% against the evidence criteria.

In respect of applications to the '£10,000-£50,000' Innovate Fund, Five applications had been invited to proceed to the second application stage, where their detailed information would be further considered by the Recommendation Panel and if funding was recommended, they would be submitted for final decision by this Committee.

Issues raised in discussion included:

- asking what reporting back was undertaken on successful funding applicants. In reply it was explained that for smaller cultivate fund awards, applicants would provide quarterly or bi annual progress reports against their planned activity to include case studies to highlight good practice. This would be alongside updates with their nominated Service Lead. For larger Innovate fund applications there was a stated requirement for more detailed quarterly updates against project

and financial plans, with monitoring being carried out by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation who administered the fund.

- In response to a question on what information from the current report could be shared with the public, it was explained that all the information included in the current report was public, as it did not include full details of the individual applications which would have included business sensitive exempt information not for public disclosure. In addition, all successful bids will be published on the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation website. The details of non-successful bids were not publically available but would, as previously agreed, be shared with the Committee on a confidential basis outside of the meeting for information purposes only.
- Asking for details on the value of the Fund and when further applications would come forward. It was explained that the total Fund value was £1m. The second round deadline for applications was 15th December. For larger Innovate applications the next deadline would be 9th March 2018 and for smaller cultivate applications there was a further deadline of 1st May 2018. The next Recommendation Panel meeting on 30th January would consider new cultivate applications from the December deadline, plus the 5 Innovate applications who were in the second stage of their application process. Recommendations from that Panel would come forward to the 15th February Committee meeting. A further Panel meeting had been set up on 19th June which would report to the 5th July 2018 Committee meeting.

With no dissension,

It was resolved:

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

- Ely St John's Primary School. Project name: 25 Year Anniversary Fund: Nurture Model -£5,000
- Houghton and Wyton Timebank Project name: Houghton and Wyton Timebank in the Community £10,000
- British Gymnastics Association: Project name: Love to Move £9,999
- Holy Trinity Church Hildersham: Project name: Parish Nurse Plus -£10,000.

34. COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE REVIEW OF DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUSINESS PLANNING PROPOSALS FOR 2018-19 TO 2022-23

This report presented by Clare Andrews provided the Committee with an overview for its comments on the latest position in the development of the Council's Business Plan for 2018-19 to 2022-23 which had been the subject of reports to the other services committees in October and December. It explained the role the Committee had in supporting delivery of revenue and capital proposals across the organisation and the next intended steps to take this agenda forward. Appendices 1 and 2 to the report had been circulated and published after the initial agenda despatch with all Members of the

Committee having been provided with hard copies and with spares being made available for the public at the meeting.

The Committee was reminded that it was to have the core responsibility to work across the organisation and with all other Committees to manage and reduce demand to ensure the Council delivered a balanced budget and to ensure those people most in need could access support quickly and easily. To help effect this change the agreed intention was for a holistic approach focussing on a number of major key themes to include:

- Community Resilience
- Tackling Deprivation
- Economy and Skills
- Partnership Working.

More detailed explanation against these headings was provided in paragraph 4.6 of the report.

Key issues highlighted were:

- That for 2017-18 no savings were required to be made from budgets under the control of the Committee (focusing on community safety, tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence, and building community resilience). It was recognised that reducing budgets in these services would have a direct negative impact on demand and would lead to costs being incurred elsewhere in the Council. The Service Director for Communities and Safety highlighted the intention for the Committee to make a positive change. To assist with this, a workshop was to be held following the conclusion of the Committee meeting. In addition, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be meeting with the Chair and Vice Chairmen / women of the Adults, Health and Children's Committees early in the new year to discuss their respective budget pressures and what this Committee could do to help assist them to achieve their aims of making savings and securing efficiencies. The intention would be to establish clear delivery plans to proactively drive forward systems-wide leadership and change, in order to help transform the outcomes from partnerships.
- The Table under paragraph 2.7 of the report provided a summary of the various material (£100k or greater) changes made since October in the overall planning position for 2018-19. The level of unidentified savings had reduced by £2.8m but the gap to achieving a balanced budget still required a further £2.7m savings to be identified by the time the budget was set by full Council at its February 2018 meeting.

Having discussed the report contents,

it was resolved to:

- a) Note the updated overview and context provided for the 2018-19 to 2022-23 Business Plan and the progress made in the development of proposals.
- b) Note the growing role in supporting delivery of revenue and capital proposals across the organisation and the next steps to take this agenda forward.

35. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT TO THE END OF OCTOBER 2017

The Committee received the above titled report providing the financial and performance position for the whole of the People and Communities (P&C) Directorate to the end of October 2017 for review and comments. The Budget lines within the Committee's remit were set out in the table in paragraph 1.3 of the report totalling £6.6 million.

It was highlighted that at the end of October the budget lines under the remit of the Communities and Partnership Committee were forecasting an underspend of £107k which was an increase from the previous month when an underspend of £90k had been predicted. The key area of underspend in Youth Offending Services was highlighted in paragraph 2.2.

While the County Council's major savings agenda still required £99.2m of savings across the Council between 2017 and 2022, as already highlighted in the previous report, there were no required savings for budget lines under the remit of the Communities and Partnership Committee direct budget lines in the 2017-18 financial year.

On the performance of the two Communities and Partnership Performance Indicators listed below, both were currently showing as green (on target) but were currently under review regarding which Committee they should be reporting to in the future:

- The number of people in the most deprived wards completing courses to improve their chances of employment and progression in work.
- The number of people starting apprenticeships.

The Chairman highlighted that while the Committee was not being asked to make any savings in the current financial year, he hoped that in the medium to the longer term savings through this Committee's work savings would be made in a number of budget areas.

Having reviewed and commented on the report,

It was resolved

to note the Finance and Performance report.

36. DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE - UPDATE ON THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER TRAINING

This report provided the Committee with an update on actions to take forward the White Ribbon Campaign whose mission was to end male violence against women, with the aim of signing up local authorities, public sector organisations and private sector organisations and for them to appoint male ambassadors. To this end at the October Committee meeting, Councillor Cuffley had been appointed as the County Council Community Safety Champion.

It was highlighted as an oral update that Councillor Cuffley had held two meetings with key officers to help shape the implementation of the White Ribbon Action Plan, building on the work already undertaken in this area by the County Council and relevant partners. The intention was to provide a more detailed update report to the February Committee.

Following on from the Members briefing session held in November, it was proposed that a more in-depth half day training event should be held for interested councillors to be undertaken in-house by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Manager at no additional cost and if possible, utilising one of the existing reserve Committee / workshop dates. The aim was to provide relevant information to enable Members to be both better equipped to advise local residents who might be experiencing domestic abuse about resources and support available, and to help promote its prevention. The Vice Chairman highlighted the need for the invitation to be extended to all Councillors.

It was resolved:

- a) To agree to receive a more detailed report on the 'White Ribbon' campaign at the February Committee.
- b) To accept the offer of specialist training for Councillors to be undertaken.

37. COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP AND TRAINING PLAN

This report provided details of a new combined Workshop and Training Plan for the Committee's consideration and approval. The aim of the combined document was so that workshops should be considered as part of the training plan for the Committee to give Members a greater opportunity to influence the workshop content to reflect their training requirements.

In discussion it was highlighted that the next reserve Committee date on 24th January would be cancelled and converted to a training workshop with the main theme being Adult Skills and Learning with an emphasis on helping support communities to grow. In that there was still an ongoing debate regarding the most appropriate Committee to oversee Youth Services (*note: the issue being whether it should be this Committee or Children's Committee*) and therefore the 15th March Workshop training session currently showing the heading 'Targeted Youth' might change (*Note: and could be the ideal slot for the additional proposed session on Domestic abuse preventative training*)

In response to a question asking whether Members of the Committee were content to use the reserve committee dates / workshops as training sessions, Members confirmed their support.

Councillor Tierney asked that the invites be re-sent to confirm them as workshop / training sessions. **Action: Democratic Services at least two weeks before the proposed date at which time it should be clear that the date was no longer required for a formal Committee meeting.**

Councillor Joseph suggested that there should be a future session on poverty (linked to deprivation) **Action: A Chapman to consider further regarding an appropriate slot / theme for the workshop.**

Having commented,

It was resolved:

To agree on the training plan and forthcoming workshops.

38. COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN

The published Committee Agenda Plan was noted with the following additions to the formal February Committee meeting:

- Budget Consultation Feedback Report.
- Adult Skills Report with recommendations from the January workshop.
- Community Resilience Strategy.

39. ORAL UPDATES FROM AREA CHAMPIONS

One Member made the suggestion that the updates should only be reported on a quarterly basis as there was not always that much progress to be reported bi-monthly. In response the Chairman indicated that the updates were not compulsory and Area Champions should only offer to provide an update if they had progress to report.

The following updates were received:

a) Councillor Tierney

- meetings with parish and town councils - While some were in the process of being arranged - most had now been set up.
- Useful information had been received from officers regarding scams prevention and that was being shared with vulnerable groups/contacts.
- Valuable feedback received from people telling him what they believed area / community champions should be doing.
- Loneliness was identified as being a particular issue and he would report back after further discussions had been undertaken with village representatives.

b) Councillor Every

Main issues from discussions already undertaken and from meetings with local district and parish councillors included:

- The issue of loneliness in insular communities and for the elderly living on their own
- Actions planned on supporting Community Transport
- Exploring growing Time Banks - connecting local organisations and individuals
- The need for statistics on demography with an emphasis on youth and elderly people
- A huge interest in funding sources and how to access them / complete grant application forms particularly in respect of the Innovate and Cultivate Fund.
- The local Community Safety Partnership – The County Council and district council was working together on how to reshape it.
- For the first time a Youth Strategy Board had been set up in the District due to the planning and funding needs that had been identified.

- Improving the environment
- Domestic abuse issues.
- The requirement to find more foster parents.
- The need to promote Health and Well-being schemes.
- The need to grow more volunteers and create volunteering opportunities for school children.

c) Councillor Meschini

- From meetings with youth officers she had received a great deal of feedback on the needs of youth services. Due to the insufficient funding in this area she was preparing a list of requirements.
- Her meetings with faith groups on 15th November had identified a suggested need to reactivate the Inter-Faiths Council.

d) Councillor Joseph

- Meetings had been undertaken with South Cambridgeshire District Council, the community team and their lead member. She made reference to the partnership working and new initiatives being undertaken to tackle isolation.
- She highlighted her particular interest in mental health and was still in the process of arranging meeting to discuss issues around this area. She had passed on details of schools who wished to be more involved to the EdMind Trust who were proposing a well-being programme for schools.
- She had met with the Chief Constable, the Santa Marta Group and Cambridge Centre for Applied Research in Human Trafficking to discuss modern slavery issues. She highlighted that the top priority of Alec Wood was to protect vulnerable individuals.
- The need to continue to raise awareness regarding domestic abuse issues which were still under reported. She had attended a meeting with Cllr. Cuffley at the Cambridge Aid Centre and it was evident from this that there was still much work to do. She was very interested in initiatives to focus on and engage with different communities and faith groups as she believed this would be a long-term sustainable way of tackling this.
- She was currently following up leads regarding Time Banking and Social Isolation initiatives.
- She highlighted that some communities were embracing highways volunteering and creating Environment working groups,
- Reference was also made to the Community Transport Digitalisation Project.

As it was the last meeting of the year, the Chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

Chairman
February 2018