

**COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE: MINUTES**

**Date:** Thursday, 17th January 2019

**Time:** 10:00am – 11:00am

**Present:** Councillors: S Criswell (Chairman), K Cuffley (Vice-Chairman), D Connor (substitute for Cllr Nieto), A Costello, L Every, J French, C Richards and T Sanderson.

**134. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies received from Councillor Nieto (substituted by Councillor Connor) and Councillor Dupre. Last minute apologies were also submitted by Councillor Manning.

No declarations of interest were made.

**135. MINUTES – 20TH DECEMBER 2018 AND ACTION LOG**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th December 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

An update to the Minutes Action Log was read out by the Service Director: Community and Safety.

While discussing Minute 92, Cllr Richards informed Members that she would raise the issues mentioned in the Action Log at the next Cambridgeshire School Improvement Board meeting. Cllr Every informed the Committee that she would also raise the issues at the next Children and Young People Committee meeting.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the list of Members on the cross party working group to develop shared services between Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, as mentioned in Minute 104 of the Action Log, had been amended to include extra substitutes. Democratic Services were asked to update the published list. **Action required**

**136. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No petitions or public questions were received.

**137. INNOVATE AND CULTIVATE FUND RECOMMENDED APPLICATIONS**

Following the Innovate and Cultivate Fund (ICF) Recommendation Panel meeting on 7th January, the Committee received a report containing three applications to the Cultivate Fund recommended for funding by the panel, as well as an update on already funded ICF projects. Further to the Cultivate Fund recommendations, the Committee was

informed that 6 applications to the Innovate Fund had been invited to proceed to the second application stage and following a further selection process, would be submitted to the Committee for a final decision on 7th March 2019. It was noted that the Recommendation Panel would be making their selections on 1st March, after reports were published for the Committee meeting and so the Chairman agreed to allow the item to appear on the agenda as a late item.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Clarified that IDVA (page 29 of the agenda) stood for Independent Domestic Violence Advisor, and that the Bobby Scheme provided target hardening support for high risk victims of domestic abuse.
- Queried why projects that had already received Cultivate funding were being recommended to receive further funding. Members were informed that there was no limit to the number of times that projects could apply for funding and that as long it could be proved that the result would continue to reduce costs and workloads to the Council service provision, the same reasoning for funding would apply. Many projects expanded as they developed and had the potential to reach new communities or new people and such expansion should be supported. It was noted, however, that applications for further funding would need to be for a different purpose, or be targeted at a different cohort or a different location to the previous successful application.
- Established that the Recommendation Panel's meetings and decision-making process were private, without the publishing of minutes, while the Communities and Partnership Committee served as the public part of the process. It was noted that the Recommendation Panel consisted of ten voting members, including five cross party Members from the Committee alongside four officers from across the Council and a CCF Trustee.
- Confirmed that they would continue to receive information on the unsuccessful applications in a confidential manner, in order to provide ongoing support to the projects.
- Agreed that officer clearance for future reports of this type would not be necessary given that the content was always repeated except for the information on the actual applications being recommended for funding.

It was resolved to:

Agree to fund the following three applications through the Cultivate Fund:

- (i) Cambridge City Council – Safer Communities Team: Mobile outreach support and information service
- (ii) Histon & Impington Community (HICOM): Histon & Impington Worry Tree Café
- (iii) Cambridgeshire Police Shrievally Trust: Vulnerable Families Continued

## 138. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT – NOVEMBER 2018

The Committee received the Finance and Performance Report for People and Communities, with emphasis on the budgets for which the Committee held responsibility. It was noted that the overall position for People and Communities had changed significantly, with the forecasted overspend increasing from £2.6m to £4.3m, although it was emphasised that none of this overspend was attributable to the Communities and Partnership Committee.

A correction was made to the table in Section 1.3 of the report, with the clarification that the Committee did not receive Dedicated Schools Grant funding and that therefore the table was incorrect to state this. It was confirmed that the figures were correct and that the only error was the mention of Dedicated Schools Grant.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Considered the Home to School costs that contributed to the overspend, as laid out in Section 2.2 of the report, having been informed that the service had been asked to investigate alternative options to the high cost taxi system currently being used. It was noted that a rigorous procurement process was taken to ensure best value for money with regards the taxi service, but that many drivers were reluctant to drive to areas that required travelling on the A14 due to the problems related to the roadworks, while constant new routes and stops also added to the complexity of the process. Members were informed that the cost of transport had not originally been factored into decisions of placements and that it was now being considered from the beginning of the process, as a more expensive placement close to home could still prove less expensive overall than a cheaper placement that required more extensive transport provision.
- Acknowledged the vulnerability of those using the taxi services and the importance of ensuring that they were able to continue attending the same schools, despite the high costs. It was noted that when the taxi service failed to arrive, children were unable to attend school and that this was a serious problem for them as there was no alternative provision.
- Expressed concern over the diminished level of dialogue and communication between the Council and the Ely & Soham Association for Community Transport (ESACT) and the Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT). It was noted that some issues had arisen as a result of the investigation into the community transport commissioning service and the Service Director undertook to investigate the problem and attempt to restore its effectiveness and communication. **Action required**

It was resolved unanimously to:

Review and comment on the report.

## 139. COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS ORAL UPDATE

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

- Councillor Costello, who drew attention to the launching of 'Essentials by Sue' in Ramsey on 28th January. A written update was also provided and is included as **Appendix 1** to these minutes.
- Councillor French, who drew attention to a general reluctance of local councils to become involved in timebanking projects until after the elections.
- Councillor Richards, who drew attention to the productivity of the Community Champion meetings, work being done to tackle homelessness, projects aimed at countering and preventing hate crime, and issues surrounding asylum seekers in Cambridge. A written update was also provided and is included as **Appendix 2** to these minutes.
- Councillor Every, who drew attention to her invitation to sit on the Combined Authority Skills Strategy Stakeholders' Group, as well as work being done on the youth strategy being developed in East Cams and the need to find funds for projects outside of the Innovate and Cultivate Fund framework . A written update was also provided and is included as **Appendix 3** to these minutes.

Following the Community Champions' updates, a discussion was held over the issue of homelessness across Cambridgeshire, during which Members:

- Expressed concern over the number of people sleeping on the street, noting that while numbers seem to have decreased in Cambridge and Peterborough, there were indications that they remained high in other areas such as Wisbech. It was noted that there was a difference between people who were homeless and those sleeping on the street.
- Discussed how Think Communities was tackling the issue through a place based approach, noting that it was important to treat each case separately and understand the issues on an individual basis. Some cases were more complex than others but it was acknowledged that this was not an excuse for failing to provide the necessary assistance. It was noted that the fact that some hostels had vacant beds was evidence that simply providing a bed was not enough in many cases.
- Praised the work of the outreach team operating in Cambridge City, as well as hostels and other projects. Members expressed concern over the strict rules applied in some hostels, some of which banned people from returning. It was also noted that some venues were only open during the night and provided no services or facilities during the day.
- Noted that when the Council began charging for the lengthy use of computers in libraries, access was reduced to homeless people and they could now only make time-limited use of the facilities. One Member noted that Huntingdon Town Council loaned its councillors' tablets to the local library when they were not in use

in order to provide free facilities for homeless and vulnerable people. It was suggested that finding funding to allow the library charge to be removed was something that could be considered by the Poverty Working Group. **Action required**

**140. AGENDA PLAN**

After noting that the reserve date for a meeting on February 14th had been cancelled, it was resolved unanimously to:

Note and agree the Agenda Plan.

**141. TRAINING AND WORKSHOP PLAN**

It was resolved unanimously to:

Note and agree the Workshop and Training Plan.

**142. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING – THURSDAY 7TH MARCH 2019**

Chairman  
7th March 2019

**Community Champion of Community Activity Update**

<b>Community Champion:</b>	Adela Costello
<b>Place:</b>	Huntingdonshire
<b>Date:</b>	Communities & Partnership Committee - 17th January 2019

**UPDATE**

- A meeting took place with week between the Working Party for ‘Essentials for Sue’ and the Manager for Ramsey Library and the project Manager for the Ramsey Million. Previous meetings had taken place to discuss the management of the project at Ramsey and the Library staff were happy to take control of receiving donations and dispensing them to the young people. A launch date has been set for Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January at 12.30 p.m.
- Monthly article in the local newspaper highlighting the work of the council plus the continued need to recruit foster carers and re-ablement workers in particular at this time of the year when the NHS struggles with bed blocking. Also covered the need to report hate crimes in the area.
- Meeting with the Co-ordinator for Ramsey Time banking to discuss future projects.
- The Co-ordinator for Sparks, the club for adults with learning disabilities is moving from the area so the need for involvement to ensure the continued success of the project will need to be priorities.
- Attending meetings about third party reporting which will involve Community Champions co-ordinating their areas plus poverty workshops.

**NEW CONTACTS, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES**

- A meeting to be arranged with the Portfolio Holder for Communities at the District Council to consider future initiatives plus the Member who has a responsibility for homeless people in the area.
- Local parishes meeting is to take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January at Sawtry Parish Centre. The major topic for discussion is the Transport Review which will greatly affect the rural areas of Huntingdonshire.
- Knitted winter warmers still a priority for Time Bank members. Local food banks to distribute.
- Meeting to take place on 5<sup>th</sup> February with the Mayor of the CA do discuss local issues but in particular Rural Transport. Recently interviewed by a reporter from the Guardian about the situation in Ramsey although not quoted.

**COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE**

- Joint working between Officers and Members of HDC and CCC including Library Staff and local community groups in establishing ‘Essentials by Sue’. The project is now being rolled out in Ramsey and hopefully within the next few months to St. Ives and St. Neots. Also looking for venues in Sawtry and Yaxley and making links with the Community Workers from this area of the district.

- Supporting Time Bank co-ordinators in identifying new projects which will benefit local people such as gritting pavements in the winter months.
- Arranging meetings with local parish/town councillors and clerks to discuss issues in their areas.

**Community Champion of Community Activity Update**

<b>Community Champion:</b>	Claire Richards
<b>Place:</b>	Cambridge City
<b>Date:</b>	Communities & Partnership Committee - 17th January 2019

**UPDATE**

- Regular meetings between the Area Champion(s) and the Executive Councillor for Community Services in order to discuss current and emerging live issues of mutual interest, gain a deeper understanding of the relevant issues for Cambridge City, provide challenge to the Committee and Council on the impact decisions may have in local areas. These include discussions with City Colleagues on the impact on the community given the cuts to the children's centres. Further liaising points to ongoing concerns. Update December. Further discussions on impact of cuts on children's centres and nursery provision in Cambridge. Discussions on the new developments and community provision (see below)
- Meeting and requests made for clarity on service provision in Cambridge with the disposal of Shire Hall. This work continues.
- Attendance at City Faith Partnership workshop in November 2017 resulted in regularly involvement in order to develop and share the learning from the partnership, consider a possible need to reactivate the Inter-Faiths Council and make links between schools and Faith group through SACRE.
- Meetings with consultant and city officers working on extension plan for Cambridge to understand their plans, ambitions and areas for concern. Fed into plan and made connections between some community groups. Ongoing work with officers and members on new developments within the City including acting as an Ambassador for community based provision in meetings for new developments in Eddington and Darwin Green. Have met with the University on provision of senior living accommodation at Eddington. Liaising on the community provision at Darwin Green. Attended briefings on the environmental vision for Cambridge at the City. Further work on provision of senior living accommodation in in Eddington. Meeting arranged and discussions on community provision in Darwin Green taking place. This meeting is being rearranged and I have had a preliminary discussion on this and the joint services to be shared with Darwin Green and Eddington.
- Central Library in Cambridge is a flag ship library which meets the demanding needs of a diverse population. Area Champion has met with key staff in central library to act as an ambassador and engage in community projects. This included homework clubs. Looking at impact of computer charges on the community and concerns raised about other services.



- Attendance at recent faith group meeting on rough sleeping/homelessness. Meetings with County officers on homelessness strategy and further meetings organised supporting work between city and county council. Meeting took place to gain overview of narrative on provision for homelessness and rough sleeping in Cambridgeshire. Worked with and working with the city on this issue. Plan to arrange sharing of good practice in the City with other area champions if this would be a welcome contribution. Shared good practice on the City approach on this at an Area champion meeting.
- Attended faith group meeting as above and reaching out to faith groups to consult on the impact of hate crime and ways forward on reporting it. Consulting and reached out to a range of groups and faith groups on this issue and have feedback to feed into this. This work continues and two meetings arranged on this.
- Liaising with County and City and with residents to set up a 'Sue's Essentials' initiative if appropriate in Cambridge.

**Community Champion of Community Activity Update**

<b>Community Champion:</b>	Lis Every
<b>Place:</b>	East Cambridgeshire
<b>Date:</b>	Communities & Partnership Committee – 17th January 2019

**UPDATE**

The following are still ongoing:

- White Ribbon Accreditation achieved: being rolled out to Parishes;
- Working with County lead on Children’s Centres and District Hub Social workers to identify local needs and gaps in provision. Visits being undertaken with families to understand scope of work being done in Ely and Littleport initially; Soham to follow: Undertaken training with Ely Children’s Centre;
- Parenting Course in a Littleport primary school being delivered. Monitoring process in place. Spreading good practice; Working with Trumpington to facilitate their own bid.
- Bursaries obtained for Bishop Laney pupil premium students now in place resulting in increased numbers for the Sixth Form: allocated;
- ECDC Careers Event in Ely Cathedral - planning for next year – 5 November 2019
- Business Forum now formed to work with local sector; networking business lunches at Bishop Laney Sixth Form set up with sector representatives and focused Year 12 and 13 students: have held Media; Finance and Catering so far. Excellent networking events leading to work experience and understanding of the sector studied.
- Working with ECDC ‘Get moving’ campaign to develop a stakeholder group to support more activities, included a portfolio of different types of chair-based exercises, initially in Littleport and Ely; needs chasing;
- First conference held at St George’s Surgery on Mental Health; next conference on Dementia.
- Meeting arranged for new year to pull together the Youth Strategy Board with Ely, Soham and Littleport; now involving Burwell;
- Working with a programme to support Dementia groups through exercise and singing in order to share good practice;
- Harnessing information from Parishes who are interested in setting up their own Timebanks, eg Working with the Friends of the Soham Library;
- Researching local libraries/village halls to determine facilities offered within the patch;
- Launch of an ECDC Apprenticeship Hub which is an interface between business and school to demystify the process and promote vacancies being tested.

**NEW CONTACTS, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES**

New Projects:

- Planning to pursue with Liz Morris the Youth Strategy for East Cambs which is more challenging as funds to support this appear to be difficult to find;
- I have been invited to sit on the CA Skills Strategy Stakeholders’ Group in support of East Cambridgeshire;

- Working with Endurance Estates and our New Communities Officer on the planning for and implementation of a new community facility in North Ely;
- Meeting with CCF to discuss a more successful approach to funding that meets the needs of our organisations and residents;
- Working on a pilot for the 'Local Offer' for our Looked After Children; this is likely to be in Cambridge City;
- Working with City College, Peterborough to grow numbers on their courses in East Cambridgeshire for their Health and Care Sector Work Academy, initially in Ely. Have discussed the appropriate marketing strategy for accessing likely candidates in East Cambridgeshire.
- Working on the Hate Project with CSP at ECDC – working on venues for walk -n opportunities across the area; meeting arranged with Cllr Cuffley;
- Working with Burwell on their Youth Project; facilitating a greater level of engagement has moved things forward;
- Supporting and working with District Councillor for Soham on funding issues for 2 projects in Soham, ie a man shed and up-grading the youth football teams pavilion;
- Meeting with Wellbeing Service Manager, Peterborough Wellbeing Service regarding their bid regarding social prescribing and the intended impact on East Cambridgeshire.
- Discussions with VCAEC to extend car share scheme and attract volunteers outside Ely.

#### **COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE**

- Initial research has been undertaken to identify the organisations in existence, what they currently offer; how these services could overlap and determining a network strategy;
- Working with parish and district councillors to create capacity and information base supporting their work in their Parishes/Wards as required;
- Building network of community providers and champions across the District.
- Improve communication with County, District and Parish Councillors, particularly embracing social media.