

## **COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE: MINUTES**

**Date:** Thursday, 8th November 2018

**Time:** 10:00am – 11:25am

**Present:** Councillors: S Criswell (Chairman), K Cuffley (Vice-Chairman), A Costello, L Dupre, L Every, J Gowing, L Joseph, C Richards and T Sanderson.

### **111. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies were received from Councillor French.

No declarations of interest were made.

### **112. MINUTES – 18TH OCTOBER 2018 AND ACTION LOG**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

It was noted that outstanding actions would be completed by the end of the calendar year.

### **113. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None received.

### **114. INNOVATE AND CULTIVATE FUND END OF YEAR EVALUATION REPORT**

The Committee received an end of year evaluation report on the Innovate and Cultivate Fund, which included a summary of project outcomes and potential returns from interest on the four projects completing their first year of funding, an analysis of the applications received and an update on ongoing projects. It was noted that it had proven difficult for some projects to show the required return on investment after only one year of funding and Members were invited to consider extending the time limit to two or three years, an extension approved by the Head of Finance. Attention was also drawn to the continued assistance provided to unsuccessful applicants through the Transformation Team as well as by actively encouraging collaboration with other organisations.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Expressed their approval that the recommended changes were the result of evidence-based analysis and feedback from applicants.

- Acknowledged the increased level of support given to prospective applicants as well as unsuccessful applications. It was noted that giving support throughout the process instilled confidence and encouraged a higher number of applications.
- Recognised the value of having Committee Members sitting on the Recommendation Panel, which allowed the Committee to have an overview of what was going on in the communities.
- Suggested that describing projects as being “successfully funded” implied the successful completion of the funding process, as opposed to success in obtaining funding which was the originally intended use of the phrase. The report authors agreed with this observation and the need to avoid confusion in the future.
- Identified the difficulties in proving the return of investment after such a short period of time as one of the greatest challenges facing both the applicants and those making funding decisions. It was agreed that extending the estimated return on investment to up to three years would alleviate these problems and allow for funding to be phased over longer periods of time but it raised questions over whether the projects currently receiving funding on shorter timescales would also benefit from the change.
- Expressed concern over the lack of funded projects in Fenland and that those who were in most need of the support were not receiving it. It was noted that those projects which did involve Fenland were all cross-district projects and none were specific to the area. It was agreed that current efforts to encourage applications in Fenland should be increased. Members suggested that geographical weighting could be implemented in the decision process to increase coverage in under-represented areas. It was noted that this would be considered by the Steering Group at its next meeting. **Action Required**

It was resolved unanimously to

- a) Consider and approve the recommendations outlined in paragraphs 2.11 of the report for future rounds of the Innovate and Cultivate Fund
- b) Note and comment on the process for the next round of the programme as set out in paragraph 2.12

## 115. CUSPE REPORT – MEASURES OF OUTCOMES

The Committee received a report from the Cambridge University Science and Policy Exchange (CUPSE) on ways to effectively measure outcomes of social projects and have them be comparable. It was noted that assessing project outcomes and assigning them a value was inherently difficult but studies had been carried out on the evaluation of social services and the team had identified techniques and practices which could be applied to the Council’s procedures, with specific attention given to the Innovate and Cultivate Fund.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Expressed their appreciation for the comprehensiveness of the report and the suggestions that were included. It was noted that the steering group would consider how to implement the paper's recommendations at its forthcoming meeting.
- Acknowledged that applying a social value and a cash value to decisive factors was one of the paper's key findings, noting that cash values were easier to establish. Applications involved applicants choosing from a list of potential savings to the Council and it was suggested to Members that it would be more effective for those making the funding decision to indicate where savings might be attained, based on previously identified values.
- Identified the lack of a national recognised model focused on social and financial value, suggesting that the report helped work towards such a framework. While acknowledging that the technique would be useful with the Innovate and Cultivate Fund, it was suggested that it could also be applied to other areas of the Committee's remit as well as other areas of the Council's work. The reduced reliance on purely economic concerns, coupled with the proposed funding extension to three years, would imply less need for constant evaluation, while openness to consider the already existing research on social evaluation could leave to further savings.
- Considered the first recommendation on page 33 of the report, relating to the establishment of assessment tools through evaluation and sharing of the tools with future applications. It was suggested that this was the most complicated of the recommendations but also potentially the most useful both for applicants and decision-makers, and that it would be beneficial for the report authors to participate in a workshop with members and officers in order to clarify and assist in the development of such techniques. **Action Required**

It was resolved unanimously to:

Approve the attendance of the CUSPE team at the next Innovate and Cultivate Fund Steering Group to present and discuss their research findings.

#### **116. DEVELOPING A COUNTY COUNCIL OPERATING MODEL FOR TACKLING HOMELESSNESS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

The Committee received a report on the Council's contribution towards reducing homelessness across Cambridgeshire. Members were informed that although the Council was not a statutory housing authority, problems arising from unsatisfactory provision of housing represented a significant demand on Council resources. Reducing such demands was one of the objectives established for the Communities and Partnership Committee. It was noted that District Councils and the Combined Authority were proactively involved in many areas but that they would benefit from the Council playing an increased role. It was recommended that a cross council working group would be able to continue establishing how future contributions could be made.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Suggested that the Council could look to incentivise private landlords to accept residents who received benefits. It was noted that some landlords had always been reluctant to do so, while others were discouraged. The Assistant Director – Housing, Communities and Youth reported that she would raise this issue at the Homelessness Forum.
- Expressed concern over the difficulty people find themselves in when looking to be rehoused. It was suggested that communication could be improved and the system could be made easier to navigate.
- Queried the nature of the cross council working group and how it would operate. It was noted that the group would be comprised of officers only and would initially work to organise the internal infrastructure before expanding in to the different districts. The group would report and answer to the Communities and Partnership Committee but would also be in constant communication with other relevant bodies within the Council. It was also suggested to officers that once the group was established, it should consider involving the private sector, as it was important to work with everyone involved in the housing sector.
- Noted that the issue often transcended traditional district boundaries and that therefore working together was imperative. Although different districts were faced by different issues, a shared approach was necessary to compensate the movement of people.
- Requested a visual guide to how different organisations, boards and councils interacted on the issue, as well as the chain of the command. Members were informed that such diagrams existed and that they would be circulated. **Action Required**
- Suggested that it would be helpful to know the causes of homelessness in different areas in order to increase the group's effectiveness, as some problems were specific to certain areas. It was agreed that were common misperceptions over the causes of homelessness and that such information would be helpful and educational. Members were informed that it would be circulated. **Action Required**
- Noted that it would be beneficial to include the issue in the Local Council Conference, agreeing that if it was already too late to include on the agenda it would still be helpful to circulate the information and raise awareness.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Consider how the Council could ensure it complements the work of our District Council partners, supporting them in the delivery of their strategies and plans, including the suggestions made in section 2.5
- b) Agree to develop a formal operating model setting out the role of the County Council to prevent homelessness.

- c) Agree that the Communities and Partnership Committee would act as the lead Committee for the work, with reference back to all other relevant Committees as required.

## **117. LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee received a report on progress made towards the 5 year Local Council Development Plan, which was launched in 2017. Attention was drawn to the actions carried out by the Council, including the six published editions of Cambridgeshire matters, which had received very positive feedback from recipients, as well as the improvements in reporting highways issues. Members were also informed of the developments made to communications and working relationships between parish councils and partner organisations. It was noted that the training courses delivered by The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils were receiving a significantly greater number of bookings.

Cambridgeshire's Rural Community Council (ACRE) had also arranged successful events on neighbourhood planning and affordable housing, with attendees from over 50 different councils. It was noted that funding from the Combined Authority had allowed for improvements to this year's Local Council Conference, with over 200 delegates booked for the event on 23rd November, while funding from Cambridgeshire County Council had supported and enabled momentum. A special mention was made to the role of the Community Engagement Manager in supporting the process.

While discussing the report, Members reported further positive feedback from parish councils and the public regarding the partner organisations, while also expressing their appreciation for other progress that had been made.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Consider progress against the 5 year Local Council Development Plan
- b) Consider the next phase of delivery of the Development Plan, including the Local Council Conference 2018

## **118. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2018**

The Committee received the Finance and Performance Report for People and Communities, with emphasis on the budgets that the Committee was responsible for. Members' attention was drawn to the smoothing fund and the overspend forecast for Special Schools and High Needs Units mentioned on page 115 of the report.

It was noted that Service Directors from the Adults Committee and Children and Young People Committee would be attending the Communities and Partnership Committee workshop on December 20th to talk further about these pressures, how the families were affected and how the Committee could be of assistance.

While discussing the report, a Member expressed concern that the smoothing fund served to mask other deeper problems by injecting extra money.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Review and comment on the report

#### **119. COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS ORAL UPDATE**

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

- Councillor Costello, who drew attention to the new Ramsey Repair Club timebanking project which allowed people to take anything in for free repairs. A written update was also provided and is included as Appendix 1 to these minutes.
- Councillor Every, who expressed her appreciation at the variety of requests that came in, while acknowledging that social prescribing was the most complex area and mental health issues arose in many different areas of the community champions' work. A written update was also provided and is included as Appendix 2 to these minutes.
- Councillor Richards, who noted that she would be attending a forthcoming faith partnership meeting on hate crime. A written update was also provided and is included as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

#### **120. AGENDA PLAN**

It was resolved to:

Note and agree the Agenda Plan.

#### **121. TRAINING AND WORKSHOP PLAN**

Having established that the Committee meeting due to be held on December 20th 2018 would be followed by an additional training workshop, it was resolved unanimously to:

Note and agree the Workshop and Training Plan.

#### **122. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING – 20TH DECEMBER 2018**

Chairman

## Community Champion of Community Activity update

<b>Community Champion:</b>	Adela Costello
<b>Place:</b>	Huntingdonshire
<b>Date:</b>	Communities & Partnership Committee Meeting – 8th November 2018

### UPDATE

- An article in the Hunts Post last week highlighted the pilot project 'Essentials by Sue' which resulted in more offers of donations. A meeting held at Ramsey Library to discuss how best to operate the project in Ramsey in January. Later this month evaluation will take place and plans will be made to roll out the project in three further towns.
- An article in the local newspaper highlighting the work of the council plus the continued need to recruit foster carers and re-ablement workers.
- Attended Ramsey Repair Club which is an off-shoot of the new Time Banking project in Ramsey. People bring all sorts of items to be mended and only pay for parts if required.
- Visited the club for adults with learning disabilities to ascertain any needs, still need to advertise.
- Chaired the local parishes meeting, major topics for discussion was the cycle race and local transport. In direct contact with the organiser of the cycle race and advising on the local situation.

### NEW CONTACTS, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES

- A meeting to be arranged with the Portfolio Holder for Communities at the District Council to consider future initiatives.
- Local parishes meetings to be organised with more structure. Next meeting in January.
- Knitted winter warmers still a priority for Time Bank members.
- Meeting to take place with the Mayor of CA and local MP to look at public transport in association with the review which is taking place.
- Attending Local Parish Forum at the Marriott Hotel on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

### COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE

- Joint working between Officers and Members of HDC and CCC plus members of local community groups in establishing 'Essentials by Sue'. Work still ongoing as it is rolled out into other areas and involves more groups.
- 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>	Lis Every
<b>Place:</b>	East Cambridgeshire
<b>Date:</b>	Communities & Partnership Committee Meeting – 8th November 2018

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>UPDATE</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work continues with St George’s Surgery to support their Social Prescribing agenda. The first meeting is planned on mental health and we have used contacts from the Health, Corporate Parenting and Community Partnership Committees to facilitate this.</li> <li>Other sessions are planned and the process will be analysed and evaluated to determine how it could be used elsewhere.</li> <li>We are also arranging a meeting with the author of the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Social Subscribing Bid to determine future plans.</li> <li>Working with a group who did not achieve a Cultivate Fund to find other funding for their parenting courses.</li> <li>Bid received for Integrated Choir working with the Ely Youth Choir and the Special Schools in Littleport and Ely. A concert is being planned.</li> <li>Continuing to work with the Libraries programme.</li> <li>Multi-agency meeting set up for community safety, involving CCTV, shop and pub watch.</li> <li>Working to create a business partnership to support young Care Leavers, initially with the Director of Cambridge United Football Club.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>NEW CONTACTS, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following are on-going longer projects:</li> <li>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; this is now progressing</li> <li>Meeting in December (back a month) to pull together the Youth Strategy Board with Ely, Soham and Littleport;</li> <li>Working with a programme to support Dementia groups through exercise and singing in order to share good practice;</li> <li>Harnessing information from Parishes who are interested in setting up their own Timebanks, eg Working with the Friends of the Soham Library;</li> <li>Researching local libraries/village halls to determine facilities offered within the patch;</li> <li>Launch of an ECDC Apprenticeship Hub which is an interface between business and school to demystify the process and promote vacancies. Evaluation programme being planned.</li> </ul>



- Steering Group set up with 4 businesses, staff and students to work on the marketing of apprentices. Work starts next term.
- Continuing to contribute to Opportunities Area Stakeholder meetings;
- Planning further activities for East Cambridgeshire to support the recruitment of apprentices in the area with the Economic Development Team, Chamber of Commerce and Cathedral Business Group,

## 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;
- The network of community providers and champions across the District is growing making signposting and facilitating easier.
- Continue to improve communication with County, District and Parish Councillors, particularly embracing social media.

## Community Champion of Community Activity update

<b>Community Champion:</b>	Clare Richards
<b>Place:</b>	Cambridge City
<b>Date:</b>	Communities & Partnership Committee Meeting – 8th November 2018

### 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.