

## COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS ANNUAL REVIEW

To: Communities & Partnership Committee

Meeting Date: 8 October 2020

From: Adrian Chapman, Service Director: Communities & Partnerships

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: For key decisions Democratic Services can provide this reference

Key decision: No

Outcome: To provide a summary of the role of Community Champions and activities carried out during the last 12 month period of August 2019 to July 2020.

Recommendation: The Committee is asked to:

- a) Consider the outputs and achievements of the Community Champions from August 2019 – July 2020; and
- b) Agree priorities for the Community Champions to focus on for the coming 12 months.

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### Member contacts:

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# 1. Background

1.1 The Annual Meeting of Council in May 2017 agreed to establish the Communities and Partnership Committee and accepted the Terms of Reference which included a reference to the membership of the committee as 'including one Member from each City/District area of the County, to reflect the political control of the respective City/District Councils, to undertake an enhanced role'. It was agreed the enhanced role would be known as Area Champion.

1.2 On 24 August 2017 the Communities and Partnership Committee agreed the scope and remit of the Committee, agreed the purpose and brief of the Area Champion role and approved the appointment of named Area Champions. On receipt of the first annual review on 27 September 2018 the Committee agreed a change in name from Area Champion to Community Champion. On 10 October 2019 the Committee considered the outputs and achievements of the Community Champions in 2018-2019 and agreed a future focus on the same priorities adopted by Communities and Partnership Committee on 20 May 2019, namely:

Priority 1 - Think Communities (including scrutiny of the Innovate and Cultivate fund)

Priority 2 - Library Service (including transformation work via Civic)

Priority 3 - Tackling Domestic Violence

Priority 4 - Tackling Hate Crime

Priority 5 - Prevent

Priority 6 - Adult Skills Service

Priority 7 - Tackling poverty and improving social mobility

Priority 8 - Homelessness reduction

Priority 9 - Shared Services

1.3 Members appointed as Community Champions during 2019-20 are as follows:

## **Cambridge City**

Councillor Claire Richards (Labour) from 30 May 2018 to 19 May 2020

Councillor Elisa Meschini (Labour) from 20 May 2020 to date

## **Fenland**

Councillor Jan French (Conservative) from 30 May 2018 to date

## **East Cambridgeshire**

Councillor Lis Every (Conservative) from 24 August 2017 to date

## **South Cambridgeshire**

Vacant position (Liberal Democrat) from 30 May 2018 to date

## **Huntingdonshire**

Councillor Adela Costello (Conservative) from 26 October 2017 to date.

## 2. Main Issues

- 2.1 Community Champions have the remit to develop their own networks, priorities and ways of working, appropriate for the areas they serve. By working across a District area, they have the ability to add value beyond the more focussed work of the local member.
- 2.2 Community Champions have an opportunity to give oral feedback on their activities and progress at each Communities and Partnership Committee meeting. Where written feedback is offered, a copy is recorded in the minutes. A summary of the main progress and outcomes of activity has been provided by each of the Community Champions, collated by District and attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 2.3 Throughout the year Community Champions had scheduled monthly meetings and workshops up until March 2020 when meetings were postponed whilst officers and members were fully engaged on Covid related activity. During these regular meetings, Community Champions have engaged with service leads on matters of Council and Communities and Partnership Committee priorities, developing a deeper understanding of the key issues relating to the priorities and which impact on demand for Council services, including:
- Library Presents programme and Museums, encouraging community involvement in arts and culture within library settings
  - Asset Based Community Development and positive youth engagement in local communities
  - Whole Housing Programme which brings together domestic abuse system leaders to establish comprehensive housing practice in relation to domestic abuse
  - Community funding streams including Innovate and Cultivate fund with four 'seed projects' and funds available via Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
  - Military Covenant and ensuring appropriate support for serving and veteran personnel and their families for housing, education and health referrals/support
  - Indices of Multiple Deprivation, considering priority places and the impact of poverty
  - Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme providing access to debt and money management advice, as well as practical support for essential items.
- 2.4 In between meetings Community Champions have been receiving updates and timely information via email. As a result they have provided support at local events and workshops and shared the information within their local networks. These updates and communications have resulted in support on the following:
- Innovate and Cultivate pre-application advise sessions
  - East Cambs Eyes and Ears project and countywide roll out plans
  - Support Cambridgeshire training and advice sessions for the Voluntary and Community Sector across Cambridgeshire
  - Golden Age Fairs in Fenland
  - Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence awareness
  - Cambridgeshire Skills offers, sharing the opportunities across a wider audience
  - Modern Day Slavery workshop
  - Road Safety Review
  - Poverty – Living Without report

- Actively promoting and supporting applications to the Cambridgeshire Capital Fund
- 2.5 For 2020-21, Community Champions are developing a forward plan which seeks to make best use of their roles and relationships with partners including through support for the Think Communities unified approach and priorities agreed by Communities and Partnership Committee on 3 September 2020, specifically:
1. Supporting the COVID-19 Outbreak Control process
  2. Support for carers
  3. Support for older people
  4. Increasing the take-up of Technology Enabled Care (TEC)
  5. Support for Children and Adolescents (including care leavers, young people not in education, employment or training, and young carers)
  6. Tackling food and fuel poverty
  7. Improving social mobility
  8. Implementing place-based commissioning

### 3. Alignment with corporate priorities

#### 3.1 A good quality of life for everyone

Community Champions provide resource to enhance the Committee's cross-cutting role in supporting the Council's strategy to ensure all of our residents enjoy a good quality of life; the proposed priorities of the Committee and therefore the Community Champions all support this ambition.

#### 3.2 Thriving places for people to live

Community Champions provide resource to enhance the Committee's cross-cutting role in supporting the Council's strategy to ensure all of our residents are able to live in thriving places. For example, supporting the Committee's role to tackle homelessness by sharing good practice from others; working with partners to deliver Think Communities; supporting the development and delivery of the Councils commitment to tackling poverty and increasing social mobility supports this ambition.

#### 3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

Community Champions provide resource to enhance the Committee's cross-cutting role in supporting the Council's strategy to ensure all of our children have the best start in life. For example, supporting the Committee's role in delivering Think Communities aligns completely to the principles of the Best Start in Life programme.

#### 3.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050

Community Champions provide support and encouragement to communities which enable access to local services and support as well as reducing demand on services which currently have a higher carbon footprint.

## 4. Significant Implications

### 4.1 Resource Implications

- Community Champions provide resource to encourage, support and align partner and community engagement on council priorities and sharing good practice
- Aligning the priorities of Adults, Health and Children and Young People Committees with the role of Community Champions makes good use of the resource across the Council and enables delivery against the priorities for the Communities and Partnership Committee
- Continuing to increase community capacity and a more collaborative approach will help to establish how we best use our assets to achieve the most value for Cambridgeshire residents

### 4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

There are no significant implications.

### 4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications.

### 4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

Evidence indicates that some services delivered by local people within local communities can be more successful than statutory services at reaching people who may need support. The role of Community Champions in sharing good practice and opportunities to build capacity within local communities to help people help each other should therefore support more equal and diverse accessible provision locally.

### 4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

Aligning the work of Community Champions with priorities identified by Service Committees focuses the combined effort of officers and members on key priority areas and increases the positive impact through consistent messages and engagement at a more local level.

### 4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

Through engagement with partners, District and local councils, community groups and organisations and working with local members as appropriate, Community Champions help contribute to the success of the Council's community resilience ambitions by actively encouraging local delivery or a supporting role on Council priorities identified by Service Committees.

### 4.7 Public Health Implications

- Increasing the awareness of health priorities, local initiatives and support available helps individuals and communities to take responsibility for their health. It can engage them in taking steps to adopt a healthy lifestyle and other health improving activities

- Building community resilience will impact on many of the needs identified in different Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNAs), including the following:
  - Long term conditions
  - New communities
  - Homelessness and at risk of homelessness
  - Vulnerable children and adults
  - Carers
  - Older people's mental health
  - Substance Misuse
  - Unhealthy lifestyles
  - Health inequalities

**Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes**

Name of Financial Officer: Emma Jones

**Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement? Yes**

Name of Officer: Gus de Silva

**Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law? Yes**

Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

**Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?**

Yes

Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman

**Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications? Yes**

Name of Officer: Amanda Rose

**Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes**

Name of Officer: Adrian Chapman

**Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health Yes**

Name of Officer: Val Thomas

## 5. Source documents

### 5.1 Source documents

None