REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

To:	**Communities and Partnership Committee**
Meeting Date:	**6 August 2020**
From:	**Adrian Chapman, Service Director: Communities and Partnerships**
Electoral division(s):	**All**
Key decision:	**No**
Outcome:	**This Service Director report provides an overview of largely non-Covid-19 related strategic activity relevant to this Committee, and seeks to assure Members that the agreed direction of travel for the Committee's business is progressing at pace.**
Recommendation:	**The Committee is asked to:**

    a) **Note and comment on the progress made to date in relation to the various workstreams described in this report; and**

    b) **Approve the provision of a similar Service Director report to all future Committee meetings.**

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 During the COVID-19 pandemic, this Committee has received regular reports setting out the response and responsibilities of the service directorate which it oversees. However, there are a number of important workstreams that have continued to progress over the past few weeks that fall outside the immediate scope of the response to the pandemic. This Service Director report seeks to provide the Committee with an overview of those workstreams to both reassure Members that progress is being made, and to seek input into the overall direction of travel.

1.2 It is proposed that a Service Director report, which draws together a range of key workstreams, is presented to each subsequent Committee meeting as a way of describing the overall strategic direction of the service directorate, to ensure consistency of direction is maintained, to seek Political insight and direction, and to ensure all opportunities are exploited.

2. MAIN ISSUES

2.1 The work of the Communities and Partnership Committee is diverse and cross-cutting. The Committee combines responsibility for some services but also for leading the transformation of our approach to ensuring communities and residents are at the heart of our decision making, service design and delivery. Further, it has the responsibility of developing meaningful, productive partnerships across all sectors that make a lasting and positive difference to communities and achieves improved outcomes for all. This Service Director report – the first of its kind to come to this Committee – draws together a range of different but linked workstreams.
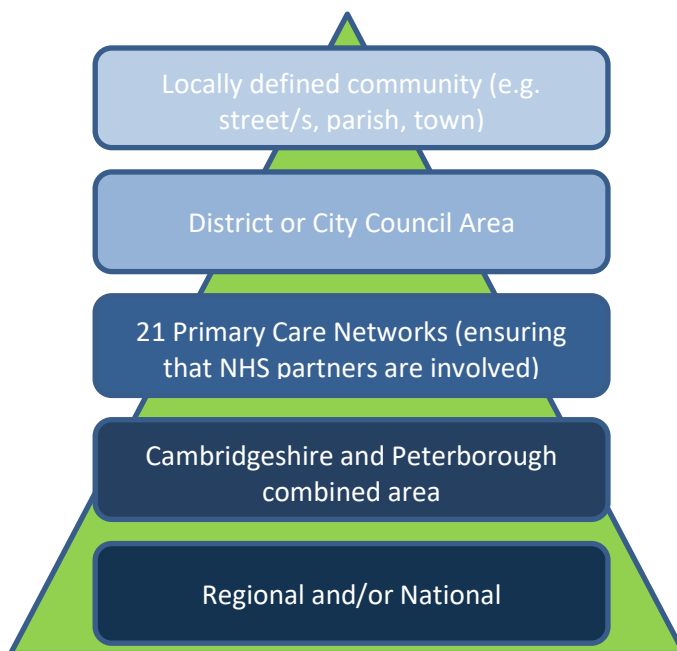
2.2 **Think Communities**

2.2.1 Since the beginning of the pandemic, the coordinated Hub response developed across Cambridgeshire has proven the concept of the Think Communities approach in real time supporting tens of thousands of residents to protect themselves from COVID-19, and as such not overload the NHS or other statutory services. This way of working together across all local councils, services and communities has resulted in positive outcomes for our residents, communities, the council and our partners. It hasn't relied on public sector reform, but instead a common-sense approach to working smarter together. This unified approach is something we want to build on, taking Thinking Communities as a concept into delivery across our county.

2.2.2 It is important that we now capitalise on the relationships, working arrangements and processes that have been shown to work well, as well as review where necessary, as we evolve our services into a new normal of outbreak management and coping with the social, health and economic challenges which our citizens will face in the future. We have a unique opportunity to work differently to support residents and communities in need, to provide opportunities for everyone, and to ensure our communities truly are at the centre of our organisation.

2.2.3 This step-change is perhaps best described as seeking to create a unified approach across our public sector system, using the now well-developed principles of Think Communities. Our aim is to ensure that communities are given the opportunities and access to information

and support where necessary at the most local level, in ways that make most sense to them. Our residents shouldn't be concerned about who delivers which service or provides what opportunity; instead, they should experience a unified public sector response that feels and is accessible, proportionate, timely and effective.

2.2.4   To ensure focussed leadership, the Communities and Partnerships Service Directorate will align its whole focus to the Think Communities Unified Approach – for example, libraries will lead or directly contribute to much of the place-based work (including place-based commissioning, community responses, befriending), our skills service will support the social mobility agenda, and our regulatory services functions will support economic and community recovery.

2.2.5   The Service Directorate will work with our partners to fully establish place-based approaches to collaborative public service delivery, in support of the council's strategic priorities. The Committee will recall a number of discussions relating to how these places are identified and agreed, and just how challenging it can sometimes feel to identify a geographical area that makes sense to everyone. Our work during the pandemic has shown that, in fact, the unified approach we are seeking to take needs to work at a number of different geographical levels, as required and defined by our communities – see the diagram below.

Locally defined community (e.g. street/s, parish, town)

District or City Council Area

21 Primary Care Networks (ensuring that NHS partners are involved)

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough combined area

Regional and/or National

2.2.6   This more flexible approach to defining our places will help to ensure we provide the most appropriate focus where it is most needed, whilst also ensuring that all of our county benefits from some level of unified approach. There will be some communities where a localised and more intensive unified approach is necessary, whilst others will require a lighter touch approach where residents can be confident of who they need to contact should they need advice or support. Additionally, some services are likely to be best delivered across a wider geographical area, perhaps those that are more specialist in nature. In all cases it will be vital that we engage with residents, local groups, parish and town councils and local Members, as well as reviewing all available data and information, to make the

right decisions.

2.2.7 The experience of delivering a Think Communities approach in real time over the past few months has enabled a sharper focus to be determined for the things we should focus on, as illustrated in the diagram below:
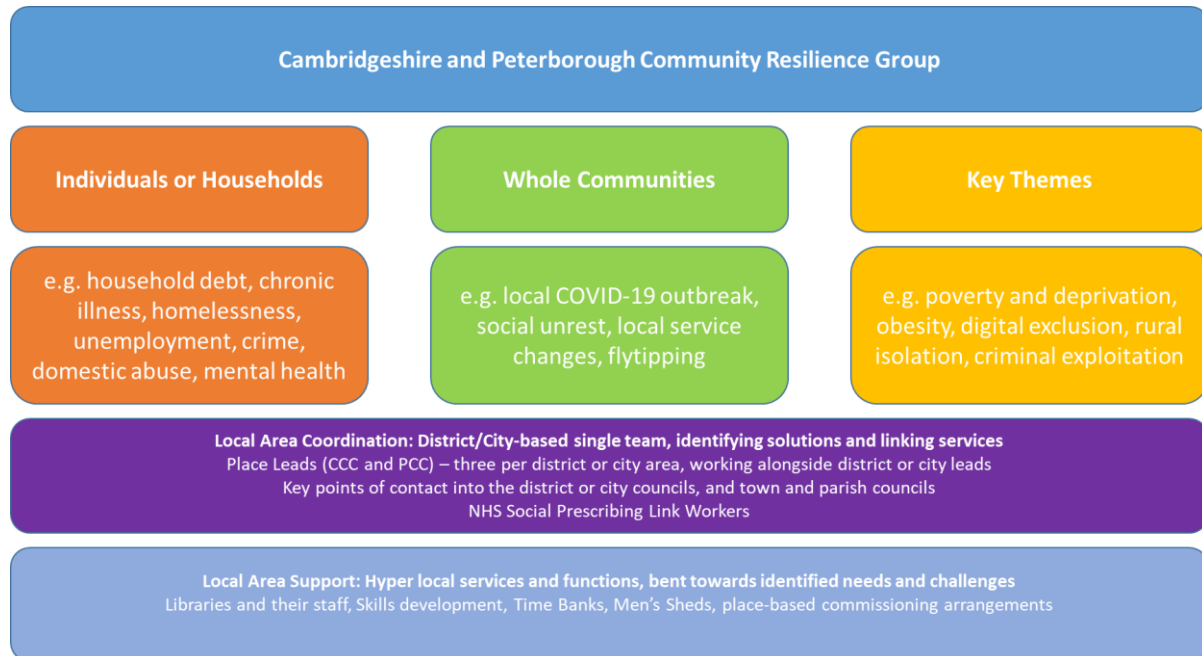
2.2.8 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Resilience Group (shown at the top of the diagram) was established at the start of the pandemic as part of the formal Local Resilience Forum command structure. It has built a network of around 35 different organisations from across the public, voluntary, community and faith sectors to coordinate activity and take opportunities to collaborate. Such is its success, we are proposing that the Group continues into and beyond the COVID-19 recovery phase, becoming a key feature of our unified approach.

2.2.9 The diagram then describes three broad themes that the approach needs to focus on: (i) the often-complex needs of individuals or households; (ii) the issues affecting a whole community; (iii) the cross-cutting themes that affect large groups of people or even our whole population.

2.2.10 Teams of officers and partners will be built with a specific focus on delivering positive and lasting change as set out above, with a core team leading the cross-cutting work, drawing in the required expertise from across our organisation and beyond, and focussing on the priorities of each service committee. These teams will:
- understand the issues – hearing from the individuals, households and communities and understanding the data, as early as possible
- identify the solutions with the individuals, households and communities – thinking creatively and outside the box
- navigate the system to make the connections – keeping it simple for the individuals, households and communities
- see it through – making sure it gets sorted

- share the learning – so we can ensure we adapt and grow as an organisation

It is important to note that we are not proposing to introduce additional layers of governance or decision making; the current democratic and partnership approaches are appropriate and effective, but this approach enables the coming together of different officers and resources to make more joined-up and sustainable decisions.

2.2.11 To ensure rapid implementation of the unified approach, it is proposed that there are a number of initial, primary themes that we focus on. These don't preclude additional work from being delivered, but will ensure that everyone – the whole council, all of our partners, residents and communities – get behind some cross-cutting challenges and together, make a lasting difference. The proposed themes are as follows:

i. **Supporting the COVID-19 Outbreak Control process** – we will need to mobilise individualised and community-wide support in the event of local outbreaks, and we have, through our hub network, established clear arrangements to enable this to happen. We will provide dynamic, timely coordination to this effort to ensure that the impact of outbreaks are minimised and that communities are kept as safe as possible

ii. **Support for carers** – the countywide hub has been in regular contact with known family carers to offer them support, befriending and respite, serving to maintain their own wellbeing and to sustain their caring responsibilities. We will continue with this approach in order to ensure that both the carer and the person being cared for can remain independent from increased statutory support

iii. **Buddying for older people** – we have recognised the value of befriending for older people who are isolated and lonely. Without this, we have seen that older people's health and wellbeing declines, leading to statutory care or hospitalisation which is then very difficult to come away from. Our community response service has provided some of this support during the pandemic, but so too has our large group of volunteers and parish councils. We will continue with this approach, but extend it to include input from our own staff including library staff, and develop inter-generational approaches which are shown to deliver better and lasting outcomes

iv. **Increasing the take-up of Technology Enabled Care (TEC)** – we have established, and want to further strengthen, opportunities to promote the use of TEC as a means of maintaining independence for longer. Working with our own services – e.g. libraries – as well as with our place-based partners means we can take opportunities to promote TEC at a very local level

v. **Support for Care Leavers and young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)** – our work alongside the district and city councils, both pre and during the pandemic, has suggested that we can support care leavers and NEET young people in richer ways by collaborating more effectively together. Combining our own statutory functions with theirs, including their homelessness duties, will deliver opportunities for young people that should lead to far better longer term life outcomes

vi. **Tackling food poverty and security** – one of the big features from the pandemic has been the need to provide food and essential supplies to people affected by the virus. In some cases this is for people who are forced to self-isolate, but increasingly there

are growing numbers of people affected by the economic consequences of the pandemic. We will work with all of our partners to provide short term solutions to food poverty, but, more critically, develop longer term solutions that do not rely on us providing food but instead enable households to be able to afford their own supplies. This work is already underway – see section 2.3 of this report

vii. **Social mobility** – through the work of the Committee, a cross-party working group has been set up to focus on improving social mobility. Again, this work is already underway – see section 2.4 of this report

viii. **Implementing place-based commissioning** – we are establishing, across our system, a unified approach to place-based working which provides a coterminous view at all levels – street-level, parish and town councils, Primary Care Networks, district/city councils, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This provides new opportunities to better understand both the unique needs of our communities but also the potential for local delivery of key services. We will start with developing a different approach to the commissioning of domiciliary care, using evidence of need and demand to develop local solutions that are not reliant on traditional contracted provision, and which can add value through for example additional social action and genuine befriending

2.3 Tackling Food Poverty

2.3.1 As described above, access to food has been one of the key areas of need for many households during the pandemic. Some have been unable to access food safely (for example, if they are self-isolating or shielding), whilst others have been impacted financially and have been unable to afford to buy food and other essentials.

2.3.2 The response to these issues has been wholly unified across Cambridgeshire, with local volunteers, community groups, food banks, parish councils and churches working together to provide support, and the county and district/city councils collaborating to fill in any gaps and ensure the most vulnerable people are given the support they need.

2.3.3 However, despite lockdown measures slowly being eased, and the need for people to shield being paused, there is growing concern that many households may still struggle financially to access food and essential supplies, especially as the full economic impacts of the pandemic are realised.

2.3.4 Alongside our district and city council partners, we have initiated a project to address these concerns, building on the principles of creating a unified approach and the exceptional local offers that have arisen in recent months. The focus of the project is on food security, defined by the UK cross-government programme on food security research as follows: *'Food security occurs when all people are able to access enough safe and nutritious food to meet their requirements for a healthy life, in ways the planet can sustain into the future'.*

2.3.5 Through discussion with district and city councils, as well as key groups such as the COVID-19 Vulnerable People and Economic Hardship group, three key principles are at the heart of the work which we are developing to ensure short term impact and long-term sustainability:

- **Local** – Access to food at the most local level as part of community or a service that makes sense to users
- **Sustainable** – Ensuring that any programmes or systems put in place link with environmental and economic sustainability
- **Healthy** – A food offer as part of a healthier lifestyles approach and which contributes to the reduction of health inequalities
- **Holistic** – Food security developed alongside other support such as skill building, access to work, volunteering, and wellbeing services

2.3.6 We are proposing two phases to our approach, with phase one taking immediate action to react in the short term (August – November 2020) as described below, and phase two being developed collaboratively in conjunction with overarching improving social mobility and tackling health inequalities strategies.

2.3.7 From the work that has already been undertaken to support vulnerable and shielding residents during the pandemic, a wide range of services including foodbanks, voucher schemes, mutual aid groups, lunch clubs, and hamper schemes have been set up or have been identified as having already been in existence. Using the already established county and district hub model, we will work collaboratively together to understand local food supply networks, and, where necessary, strengthen, secure and step these up to cope with surges in demand.

2.3.8 The aspiration in supporting individuals and families who need it will be that the food offer forms part of a wider enablement offer to those who need it, including skills development, re-training, volunteering, and other wellbeing support. This approach should be more preventative and sustainable than providing food support alone.

2.3.9 A range of communication channels have been identified which can help to address identified trends in data:

- Universal - signposting to food network information (e.g. via the hub network websites)
- Targeted Passive - families identified and assessed through contact with existing professionals/services/communities working with target groups or in key areas
- Targeted Active - reaching out to already identified groups using various data sets

2.3.10 Mapping of known existing food networks has been completed and will continue alongside our hub partners. Information about services will be collated and published on local council websites. Local hubs will continue to signpost individuals and families to community food networks.

2.3.11 Although we are looking to ensure that food security is universally embedded into communities we need to continue to be data and intelligence led to make best use of resources as well as ensure that support is focused in the right areas and at the right contact points.

2.3.12 The County Coordination Hub is committed to supporting local areas to meet both the short-term and long-term needs for food access and security. To this end we have made the decision to maintain a supply of food parcels for the foreseeable future to support emergency food to be delivered to local hubs when needed.

2.4 Social Mobility

2.4.1 As agreed at the July Committee meeting, the social mobility working group (formerly known as the tackling poverty and multiple deprivation working group) has been stood up to provide leadership of our collective approach to improving social mobility. The Group, which comprises Cllrs Costello, Criswell, French, Hoy, Meschini, Sanderson, and Amanda Taylor, met on 20 July, during which it:

- reviewed progress made on the council's existing 'Commitment to Tackling Poverty and Improving Social Mobility'
- discussed ways in which the pandemic has impacted generally on communities and their social mobility
- discussed the work described above on food poverty
- and discussed the ways in which people with black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds may be more adversely impacted by inequality and social immobility, as demonstrated in recent national reports on the ways they have been affected by COVID-19

2.4.2 The council's existing 'Commitment to Tackling Poverty and Improving Social Mobility' includes five priorities, and the key updates relating to each are as follows:

Priority 1: Boosting Incomes and Reducing Costs
- **Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme**: 2019-20 summary - 787 awards made, 664 clients supported. Total value £135,053
- **Energy Switch:** 1,074 households signed up in October 2019 and February 2020. 70% made an average of £100 saving per annum without changing energy usage. In February, there were 117 accepted offers to switch for a more favourable option
- **Support for start-up businesses and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs):** British Library Business and IP Centres have been launched and are being further developed in both Cambridge and Peterborough Central Libraries
- **Pilot a volunteer run Food Pantry in March:** Summer Holiday food poverty project was held in March during August 2019 with plans to repeat and extend in August 2020

Priority 2: Improving Early Literacy and Education Standards, and Raising Skills
- **Encourage take up of free school meals and early years Pupil Premium:** Take up of free school meals has increased steadily. Applications have doubled from March 2020 as more parents claim Universal Credit
- **Talking Together:** Initially delivered in Huntingdon, Wisbech, Chatteris, March, and North-East Cambridge, but now expanded across South Cambridgeshire with the support of the National Literacy Trust, boosting communication, language & literacy
- **Summer Reading Challenge and Bookstart:** The 2019 Challenge resulted in over 7,000 taking part and 4,450 children completing their challenge. The scheme has been moved online for summer 2020. Cambridgeshire libraries have distributed 3,872 Bookstart Baby Bags to Health settings for gifting to parents of new babies
- **Improving outcomes for disadvantaged pupils in schools:** Over 65 Schools have been visited since last March resulting in a one third overall improvement. Of these, one third have improved their results for disadvantaged pupils when comparing last year's combined outcome data with this year's (some of these were not visited until this academic year however, so in these cases it is hoped that impact will be seen in their next set of results)

- **The Essential Skills for Life Programme** led by the council's Youth and Community Service and funded by the DfE has engaged year 9 and year 10 pupils across Fenland and East Cambridgeshire in the year-long 'Aim Higher' programme of learning and positive activity. Focusing on the development of key skills essential to improving social mobility and achieving aspirations, young people in all of our secondary and SEND schools developed their social and inter-personal skills, team and group work skills and developed and led social action projects to increase their understanding of community and citizenship.

Priority 3: Strengthening Families and Communities
- **Targeted support for families:** delivery has been via 1:1 family work, through groups and activities across the county
- **Time Credits: increasing opportunities for organisations, people and families through volunteering:** The number of earn partners has increased to over 90, and there has so far been an estimated 100,000+ time credits earned in Cambridgeshire (1 credit = 1 hour of volunteering)
- **A group of actions focusing on support for vulnerable groups:** provision has been made through commissioning, partnership working and officer focus including a service for over 65's and people with a physical disability, support for ex-armed forces personnel, and Travelling communities
- **Enabling projects and community action in areas of high need:** supporting groups and organisations with access to information, advice, guidance, training and funding opportunities, including: the Wisbech Community Led Local Development European funding for projects which remove barriers for people getting into work; Public Health Healthy Fenland Fund; council-provided Innovate and Cultivate Funding; and the Community Reach Fund (CRF). For CRF, support is given to communities that have identified a need for children and young people and their families so that they can facilitate their own solutions through community projects and services. As a result, communities have begun to grow their own provision, offer youth work services, positive activities for children and young people and their families, and develop sound partnerships so they can overcome any barriers they face. Several groups across East Cambridgeshire and Fenland have gone on to access additional external national funding to further develop their initiatives and expand to meet emerging needs

Priority 4: Delivering an Effective Benefit System
- **Working with partners to share information and advice to benefit claimants:** In 2019/20 the welfare benefits team received 569 referrals, helped with 602 benefit claims and realised £1,634,249 in benefit arrears and annualised gains for residents
- **Commissioning appropriate finance focused support:** this now includes housing related support, a countywide floating support service, a new carers support service and Total Voice for people with a range of different needs

Priority 5: Promoting Long Term Economic Growth Benefitting Everyone
- **Get into and stay in work:** Volunteer opportunities have increased, and a number of projects have focused on addressing barriers into work
- **Address low aspirations, poor numeracy and poor literacy:** Cambridgeshire Skills provision has been delivered in identified key priority places and to address identified needs. A move to online support includes laptop/IT kit loan for those most in need

2.4.3 To supplement the actions in the current Commitment document, support for increasing social mobility and strengthening families and communities has included:

- **Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support:** Advice, training and support is provided through our Support Cambridgeshire grant agreement to new and established community groups and organisations who want to start up and/or strengthen and grow. This provision supports people and communities who want to come together to develop local action for issues that directly affect them. A new VCS infrastructure support agreement is due to start from 1 October 2021, and draft outcomes and priorities are being developed and will be brought to this Committee for debate and approval in September. They will build on the learning from the community and volunteer response during the pandemic, and reflect intended future ways of working set out in this report

- **National Citizens Service (NCS),** open to all 16 and 17-year-olds across the County. We have delivered a comprehensive youth development programme that supports skills development for work and life, whilst young people take on new challenges and meet new friends. Using our contract to target and support the inclusion of our vulnerable and marginalised young people we are able to ensure those who will benefit most and might not normally access an opportunity such as this thrive. NCS brings together young people from different backgrounds and helps them develop greater confidence, self-awareness and responsibility. It encourages personal and social development by working on skills such as leadership, teamwork and communication. Participants develop a social action project to deal with a local issue they're passionate about, and spend 30 hours putting the project into action in their community. Last year our Cambridgeshire communities benefitted from over 4,500 hours of social action

- **Fenland Holiday Hunger Group** has developed from the Food Pantry pilot briefly mentioned in 2.4.2 under Priority 1. Led by the council, this is now a partnership made up of representatives from March Foodbank (Trussel Trust Ely), 20 Twenty Productions, Living Sport, Fenland District Council's Healthy Fenland Team, Ely Diocese, CCORRN and Clarion Housing. This group is considering a two-stranded approach to holiday hunger for 2020 with pop-up picnics for young people in March and families in Wisbech, and food parcels with some activities delivered to the home of families

- **Social Mobility Young People Workers (SM YPWs)**: 1-2-1 support interventions were offered by SM YPWs to young people referred to the council's Early Help services where social mobility and the associated skills were a barrier to progression and development. Through collaboration and effective partnership with our third sector partners a varied menu of youth work activities were offered to our minority groups across Fenland specifically where English is not a young person's first language or where they are new to their community. Projects to reach those in rural communities and those excluded from mainstream education and two engaging primary school programmes that supported inter-generational wordlessness, our Gypsy Romany Traveller Showmen communities and aspirations to higher and further education all featured. Over 5,000 children and young people accessed the project which has also led to sustainability and development of some of our smaller yet vital charities and voluntary organisations across East Cambridgeshire and Fenland.

2.4.4 The working group reviewed a wide range of information which sought to provide the latest context for Cambridgeshire, including some of the ways in which communities and households have been affected by the pandemic. The group was especially keen to

understand how people had been adversely impacted by COVID-19 because of their background or circumstances, with the aim of ensuring they are not disadvantaged locally when trying to access opportunities and services that will help to improve their social mobility.

2.4.5   In addition to reviewing the current Commitment document, the working group, which will now meet on a monthly basis, agreed the following four initial priorities to focus on:
(i) Ensuring that people adversely impacted by COVID-19 are not disadvantaged or excluded from accessing information, services, support and opportunities in Cambridgeshire
(ii) Building a system-wide response to the issues associated with food poverty and food security
(iii) Ensuring, as part of our Think Communities unified approach with our partners, we develop targeted opportunities for community engagement in ways that make sense to our residents, focussing especially on those people who are the most excluded or disadvantaged
(iv) Ensuring we build our understanding of, and implement solutions to address, the specific impacts of (a) COVID-19 and (b) social immobility on older people and adults with a learning disability

2.5   Cambridgeshire Skills

2.5.1   The Committee has received regular reports on the Cambridgeshire Skills' service operational response to the pandemic. However, there is a need to also focus on the longer term impacts caused by COVID-19, to best ensure the service is able to meet its contractual obligations but also to position it well to support residents who may find themselves economically impacted.

2.5.2   Cambridgeshire Skills is a well-established adult learning service, currently funded by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The Adult Education Budget (AEB) grant allocation, via the CPCA, for 2019/20 was £2.25m to target c.4,500 adult learning enrolments in the County. The Committee oversaw during 2019 a fundamental transformation of its vision and values, programme offer, delivery model, and organisational framework to be appropriately placed to meet the challenges and opportunities for the academic year 2019/20.

2.5.3   Cambridgeshire Skills is now required to respond to the challenges and risks posed by the pandemic whilst maintaining an adult education presence in Cambridgeshire to sustain the level of grant supplied by our funders. Protecting the service vision and values whilst meeting the challenges head on, this will ensure long term sustainability and potential growth of the service.

2.5.4   Cambridgeshire Skills is pivotal to meeting the demands required to support social and economic recovery efforts in Cambridgeshire, whilst continuing to meet the strategic objectives within the Council's priorities and the CPCA Skills Strategy. The skills strategy sets out its commitment for funding to be focussed on the development of skills to gain a job, retraining/reskilling to change employment and upskilling those in work, much needed in the current context.

2.5.5 The service currently provides countywide adult education by offering community learning and accredited training programmes to those residents most in need, using thirteen sub-contracted partners, two hubs strategically placed in Fenland and East Cambridgeshire, and forty-one community venues. This community-based delivery is pivotal to our success and prior to Covid-19, ten additional venues were due to deliver learning to adult learners.

2.5.6 Despite creating an online offer during the pandemic, overall there has been a reduction in demand for our services of 95%. Classroom-based learning is generally the reason why the learners our service attracts come to us. Comprehensive, personalised support vital for learners below level 2 to enable them to be retained and achieved is not easily provided with online-only delivery.

2.5.7 Despite this reduction, to avoid financially destabilising the service the CPCA and ESFA have guaranteed they will not reconcile and clawback monies against unused aspects of the grants. This means we will continue to receive our full funding until the end of July 2020. This however will not continue into the 2020/21 academic year, where our delivery profile must be met to ensure future contracts are awarded.

2.5.8 In the short to medium term, this presents us with a range of risks that we need to consider:

- Just three of the fifty-one venues we had anticipated to use from September 2020 will be in a position to enable us to deliver from there. To mitigate this we do intend to make better use of our libraries, although this still only enables delivery from a total of eighteen venues
- Although the service has been successful in rapidly developing a range of online provision, this is insufficient to meet the demand of the delivery plan and does not meet the needs of our majority target market
- Social distancing measures mean that our direct delivery maximum class sizes may be just six or seven people, making classes unviable based on our current economic model

2.5.9 The Cambridgeshire Skills governing board has therefore recently agreed the need to remodel the service to manage these unique circumstances. The service will increase the maximum amount of sub-contracted delivery from the current 20% to up to 40%, enabling other providers, under our leadership and contract management, to deliver against our prospectus in other venues. Concurrently, we will continue to build our online offer to supplement classroom based learning for those where this is a suitable alternative or addition. The situation is likely to remain for at least the 2020/21 academic year, but the arrangements we put in place will be able to be easily reverted back to the current operating model as and when conditions change.

2.6 **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence**

2.6.1 The Domestic Abuse Bill has passed through the House of Commons and is now under consideration in the House of Lords. If passed, it is expected to go live in April 2021. The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership are working with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to prepare for this through a series of workshops, as the Act will place a statutory duty on local authorities regarding the provision of safe accommodation for victims of Domestic Violence.

2.6.2 Four new duties are proposed:

(i) Upper tier/unitary local authorities will be required to convene a multi-agency Local Partnership Board (LPB) to support them in performing certain specified functions. These will be to:
- assess the need and demand for accommodation-based support for all victims and their children, including those who require cross-border support
- develop and publish strategies for the provision of support to cover the locality and diverse groups of victims
- give effect to strategies by making commissioning / de-commissioning decisions
- meet the support needs of victims and their children
- monitor and evaluate local delivery
- report back to central government (annually)

(ii) A duty on MHCLG to produce the Statutory Guidance

(iii) A duty for local authorities to have regard to Statutory Guidance in exercising the above functions; and,

(iv) A duty on district, borough and city councils and London Boroughs to co-operate with Tier 1 authorities

2.6.3 It is envisaged that we will utilise the existing partnership board to oversee and implement the actions set out in the first duty above, negating the need for a standalone governance structure. MHCLG have confirmed they are supportive of this approach. Funding will be provided from Central Government to help with the administration and delivery of this work, though details are yet to be confirmed.

3.   ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1   A good quality of life for everyone

The Committee's focus is on leading positive change, in collaboration with partners, which benefits our residents and their communities, offers opportunity for all, and ensures no community is excluded or disadvantaged. By focussing on these objectives, which the various workstreams set out in this report seek to do, we can ensure that the quality of life outcomes for everyone are improved.

3.2   Thriving places for people to live

For citizens to be confident, healthy, safe and secure, they need to live in communities that mirror those attributes, and where there is a strong sense of local identity and cohesion. The workstreams set out in this report seek to support the development of a strong local identity, helping to create thriving places for people to live in.

3.3   The best start for Cambridgeshire's children

All of the workstreams set out in this report affect all residents, regardless of age. Moreover, building communities that are vibrant and have opportunity, and enhancing the social mobility of families, will directly and positively create the best possible start for our children.

3.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050

All of our work is cognisant of the net zero carbon emissions target. The food security project in particular, set out in this report, is especially focussed on achieving a sustainable and local food supply network.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

Any purchases to support this project will be carried out in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

There are a number of communications and engagement aspects to this report that our Communications team are aware of, and they are working closely and proactively with relevant officers where appropriate.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

There are no significant implications within this category.

4.7 Public Health Implications

This paper clearly lays out the diverse contributions that are being made through the work of the Communities and Partnerships Directorate to health and wellbeing. It acknowledges that key to Public Health is the improvement of health and wellbeing which needs action across many determinants.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Officer: Martin Wade
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 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: Christine Birchall
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

Source Documents	Location
None	N/A