

Communities and Partnership Committee Minutes

Date: 3rd December 2020

Time: 10:00am to 12:45pm

Present: Councillors S Criswell (Chairman), L Nieto (Vice-Chairwoman), B Ashwood, H Batchelor, A Costello, L Every, J French, E Meschini, A Taylor and M Smith

318. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

There were no apologies for absence. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Costello.

The Chairman informed the Committee that Councillor Lucy Nethsingha would be replacing Councillor Amanda Taylor on the Committee following the meeting. He thanked Councillor Taylor for her contributions to the Committee's work and noted that she would continue as a substitute on the Committee.

319. a) Minutes of the Meeting Held on 8th October 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

b) Communities and Partnership Committee Action Log

The Service Director for Communities and Partnerships informed Members that all ongoing actions would be completed by the January meeting, and the Committee noted the Action Log.

320. Petitions and Public Questions

There were no petitions or public questions.

321. Support Cambridgeshire 2019-20 Annual Report

The Committee received an annual report which detailed Support Cambridgeshire's achievements from 2019-20 and priorities for 2020-21. Comprised of a partnership between Hunts Forum of Voluntary Organisations, Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services, and Cambridgeshire ACRE (Cambridgeshire's Rural Community Council), Support Cambridgeshire provided infrastructure support to the voluntary and community sector across the County.

Although priorities for 2019-20 had initially been agreed in November 2019, Covid-19 had significantly changed the way in which Support Cambridgeshire worked to be able to continue help build the sector's capacity and strengthen its relationship with the Council. Attention was drawn to the key outputs from the year that were listed in section 2.4 of the report, while the Committee was informed that the organisation would shortly publish a research paper about how the partnership had worked so well with the community, voluntary sector and statutory partners in response to the pandemic. It was noted that the outcomes agreed for the year ending 31 September 2021 would continue to focus on the five main headings in the current Grant Agreement – community facilities, voice and representation, volunteering and social action, town and parish councils, and information and advice – with each having a new or updated outcome to suit the priorities relevant to the Cambridgeshire Local approach and the pandemic response and recovery.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Acknowledged how challenging the pandemic had been for local communities and the voluntary sector, paying tribute to the work of Support Cambridgeshire in forming a bridge between the Council and the sector.
- Emphasised the crucial role of partnership working in overcoming the impacts of Covid-19 and expressed a desire for the improved relationships to be sustained moving forwards.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note achievements outlined in this report for the period September 2019-August 2020;
- b) Note the achievements shown in Appendix 1, 'Impact of the Partnership during Covid'; and
- c) Note the priority outcomes agreed for September 2020 to September 2021.

322. Local Council Development Plan Annual Report

The Committee received an annual report on progress that had been achieved during 2019-20, the third year of the five-year Local Council Development Plan. Much of the development plan, which sought to provide support to town and parish councils in order to increase their capacity and potential, had been impacted by Covid-19, although tribute was paid to local councils for their participation in the overall response to the pandemic. Attention was drawn to the summary of progress listed in section 2.1 of the report, with particular emphasis on the success of the annual Local Councils Conference, which had been held as a virtual event for the first time in October 2020.

While it was recognised that the short and medium term would be largely focused on the continued response to Covid-19, the Committee was informed that a review of the development plan would be carried out and consulted on, in order to ensure

alignment with Cambridgeshire Local and any policy changes. The Think Communities Manager observed that the Support Cambridgeshire contract would end on 30th September 2021 and therefore Support Cambridgeshire would not be responsible for the delivery of the Local Councils Conference to be held in October 2021, although they would be involved in planning for the event.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Clarified that although the Support Cambridgeshire contract ended in September 2021, the ongoing work with the local development plan and with local councils would continue to take place as part of the long term plan. While reviewing the terms of the new contract, it had been recognised that support for local town and parish councils would be better met as a separate agreement, rather than as part of the new infrastructure support contract due to start on 1 October 2021.
- Welcomed the support provided by town and parish councils to local voluntary and community organisations responding to Covid-19, and encouraged the sustaining of such relationships as part of the development plan. It was suggested that local Members could have a key role in connecting with such groups as part of the development plan focus, although it was noted that the place-based approach of Cambridgeshire Local involved area coordinators who would help to identify and develop such connections.
- Observed that new communities sometimes struggled to find, recruit and maintain parish councillors and queried whether the Council could provide support to overcome such problems. The Think Communities Manager assured Members that a central feature of the support already given included training to recruit and retain local councillors, as well as developing community spirit and emphasising the value of having a well-organised third tier council in the community to foster this.
- Highlighted the importance of working with town and parish councils as a central feature of work carried out by both the Committee and the Council as a whole. The Service Director for Communities and Partnerships informed Members that officers had met throughout the pandemic with Cambridgeshire ACRE and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils to develop a new model for working with them to reach out to local councils.
- Observed that there were no parish councils in Cambridge City, although the Service Director assured Members that residents did not lose out and that the different structure and organisation only required working with different groups.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Consider progress made in Year 3 against the five-year Local Council Development Plan; and
- b) Consider and comment on the next phase of delivery of the Development Plan.

323. CUSPE Policy Challenge on the Effect of Council Decision Making on Community-Led Initiatives

The Committee received a report from researchers at the Cambridge University Science and Policy Exchange (CUSPE) on how both Council decision-making and growth affected the ability of Cambridgeshire communities to develop initiatives that reduced the need for formal health and social care services. The research built on evidence that engaging communities and advisers in health care commissioning was beneficial to health outcomes, while considering previous initiatives of communities themselves being care providers, based on their enhanced knowledge of local needs and priorities.

Drawing on the conclusions from their investigations, the researchers presented the following fourteen recommendations for the Committee's consideration:

- 1) To support communities to devise their own solutions to local health and social care issues;
- 2) To map local community assets alongside needs in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to gain an idea of where the community can add value, with additional insight work with marginalised communities;
- 3) To support community centres and infrastructure in new developments;
- 4) To promote and support the inclusion of family homes in all new developments;
- 5) To consider the effects of business growth on communities;
- 6) To improve the provision of affordable venues in existing communities;
- 7) To improve the advertisement of community-led groups to boost volunteer recruitment;
- 8) To improve the County Council Directory of Services;
- 9) To support volunteer continuity post-pandemic;
- 10) To increase volunteer diversity;
- 11) The Think Communities Partnership should prioritise provision of a framework for coordination and cohesion;
- 12) To continue to expand Think Communities to cover all Council sectors, above and beyond Social Care;
- 13) To support the provision of sustainable and accessible funding; and
- 14) To strengthen and assist voluntary and community sector (VCS) infrastructure support services.

The Chairman invited Councillor Mark Goldsack to join the debate due to his involvement in the research. Councillor Goldsack praised the researchers and welcomed their report, noting that its ideas were founded on the principles of Neighbourhood Cares, and highlighting the potential savings of £2000 per person, as identified in section 3.4 of the appendix.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Paid tribute to the extensive and detailed nature of the report and welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with researchers from CUSPE.

- Acknowledged that the main recommendations culminating from the report aligned to and effectively endorsed the Cambridgeshire Local approach. It was suggested that Cambridgeshire Local would be heavily informed by the research.
- Welcomed the researchers' recommendations, with the Service Director for Communities and Partnerships identifying the Executive Summary's Theory of Change logic model as a particularly effective way of demonstrating how they should be approached. While acknowledging that the research focused on health and social care services, it was argued that the impacts would reach a wide variety of sectors, including education, homelessness and employment.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note and comment on the findings of the research undertaken by CUSPE relevant to the effect of council decision making on community-led initiatives;
- b) Consider the recommendations made by CUSPE as set out in the full report at Appendix 1; and
- c) Task officers, in response to the discussion at Committee, to prepare a detailed strategy setting out the ways in which recommendations can be driven forward and delivered, either by the council or in collaboration with our partners, and in the spirit of Cambridgeshire Local.

324. Report of the Service Director for Communities and Partnerships

The Committee received a report from the Service Director for Communities and Partnerships which provided an overview of strategic activity relevant to the Committee, relating to both the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and work the Committee and its service directorate had responsibility for. Approval was sought for branding the 'Think Communities' approach as 'Cambridgeshire Local' to make the programme more accessible and illustrative. The Service Director also drew attention to work being undertaken by the Transformation Team, alongside the Coroner Service, to explore the viability of building a dedicated mortuary, pathology and inquest facility, as supported by the Committee in September 2020.

The Covid-19 Coordination and Response Hub had continued to provide support during the second national lockdown, and it was confirmed that despite lower demand for its services than during the first national lockdown, it would remain open until there was no longer any demand at all. Meanwhile, the Committee was informed that the Winter Grant Scheme was being launched today (3rd December 2020), with the allocation and deployment of £1.4m having been agreed by the Children and Young People Committee at its meeting on 1st December 2020. The funding was available until 31st March 2021 and would provide support to families and individuals facing hardship during the winter period.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Considered the proposed Cambridgeshire Local branding, and in doing so:
 - Questioned whether ‘Cambridgeshire Local’ was sufficiently descriptive of its objectives, with one Member arguing that ‘Think Communities’ was more explicit about working with the community and another suggesting that it could be confused for a shop or a pub. It was acknowledged that Think Communities had mainly been an internal message used by the Council, and that a change to the name had been suggested by local partners so that it could be built upon around the County.
 - Expressed concern about the time and cost of the proposed Cambridgeshire Local branding, with one Member requesting information on whether the work had been carried out externally and if so, how much it had cost, as well as the overall cost of the branding. The Service Director informed Members that the work had been carried out at a low cost by an external designer retained by the Council for such tasks. He also observed that use of Think Communities as a term had been mainly limited to social media or non-printed material and the change would not imply a significant cost, although he agreed to provide Members with further information.
Action required
 - Expressed concerns over the logo design and how it would appear when printed in black and white, although it was observed that Members had been provided with the opportunity to participate in the design at the Committee workshop in November. Another Member argued that design decisions should be left to design experts rather than the Committee.
 - Questioned whether it was the right time to address branding with the Council currently facing significant challenges as a result of the pandemic.
- Queried when the Committee would be informed about the allocation of remaining funds from the Winter Grant Scheme following the provision of financial support to those eligible for free school meals. It was acknowledged that the scheme provided an opportunity to strengthen partnerships that had developed across the County during the pandemic, and the Service Director undertook to provide relevant figures in the Service Director report to the January 2021 Committee meeting. He also agreed to include qualitative information about the types of people that had come forward and the type of support that had been provided, in order to ensure that support could continue to be provided beyond the short duration of the Winter Grant Scheme, if appropriate. **Action required**
- Expressed concern that only two fifths of applicants in Cambridgeshire to the national Self-Isolation Support Scheme announced by the government had been approved. The Service Director acknowledged the concern and clarified that although the scheme was administered at a district level, the specific requirements were established by the government and no discretion could be given. The Covid-19 Coordination and Response Hub had tried to coordinate and ensure a uniform response across all the district and city councils and it was

noted that the 40% approval rate was broadly consistent across the country. He also informed Members that the Council had established its own local scheme that sought to provide help for those who were unable to access the national £500 grant.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note and comment on the key themes discussed in this report; and

It was resolved to:

- b) Agree the Cambridgeshire Local branding and intended use.

325. Cambridgeshire Skills Six-Month Review

The Committee received a report which provided an update on matters relating to the delivery of the Cambridgeshire Skills service delivery plan for the academic year 2019/20, and on the direction of travel for the current academic year. Although the service had experienced significant impacts as a result of Covid-19, 85% of learners had been retained for the duration of their course, with 92% achieving their learning objective and 65% progressing into further education, apprenticeships, employment or voluntary roles. Due to a lack of available venues during the pandemic, online and blended courses had been developed, of which 55 would be available as of January 2021. Efforts to reduce digital exclusion included the Library service receiving 10 free devices from the Good Things Foundation and a further 50 devices being distributed to families across Cambridgeshire through the Connecting Families project.

The Committee was informed that the service was well placed to provide post-pandemic support, with its curriculum designed to reskill residents, support businesses, offer higher level qualifications, enterprise and business start-up programmes, and traineeship programmes. A mock Ofsted inspection had been carried out in February 2020, with performance judged to continue being “good”, with an actual inspection expected in early 2021. The Head of Adult Learning and Skills noted that in recognition of the critical role that local councillors played in adult education provision, the Local Government Association had published guidance for councillors accountable for adult and community learning, and she undertook to circulate the guidance to the Committee. **Action required**

While discussing the report, Members:

- Paid tribute to the service for ensuring continuity during the pandemic.
- Highlighted the central role that reskilling would play in the post-pandemic social and economic recovery, and queried how the service would reach out to and engage with people who unexpectedly needed support. The Head of Adult Learning and Skills acknowledged the likelihood of a significant increase to demand, and explained that targeted support for the varying levels of need had been established with partner local authorities and organisations, such as interview training for highly employable job-seekers, signposting to jobs suitable for well-skilled workers and programmes geared towards low-skilled workers. An

example was given of a recent bespoke training programme which had succeeded in obtaining work for 83% of the participants.

- Sought clarification on when the delayed refurbishments of March Community Centre would be completed. The Head of Adult Learning and Skills acknowledged that the pandemic had caused delays, but she informed the Committee that a tender was underway for a contractor to commence work in late January 2021. She also confirmed that the eight-week work schedule was expected to be completed within the timeframe required as a condition of the grant that was received.
- Noted ongoing discussions with property officers to issue a license to a community group in March that wished to develop some unused land. The Service Director for Communities and Partnerships undertook to provide the Committee with further details, noting that it was a good example of a community responding to a local opportunity. **Action required**
- Confirmed that extensive partnership working was carried out with Jobcentres and the Department for Work and Pensions, with a strong focus on increasing accessibility, identifying transferable skills and coping with the post-pandemic environment. In response to a Member's suggestion that correspondence distributed by Jobcentres could be more personalised and targeted, the Head of Adult Learning and Skills agreed to discuss the suggestion through the advisory role that the service provided.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note the progress of the Service operating as Cambridgeshire Skills;
- b) Comment on the ways the service has adapted to the ongoing impacts caused by the pandemic; and
- c) Suggest additional opportunities for the service to explore that will help meet the Council's objectives and support our communities.

326. Innovate and Cultivate Fund - Endorsement of Recommendations (December 2020)

The Committee received a report detailing eight applications to the Innovate funding stream, which had been supported by the Recommendation Panel at its meeting on 30th November 2020. The Chairman informed the Committee that he had accepted the report after the agenda had been published due to the recommendation panel meeting after the date of publication. It was noted that if the recommended applications were approved, the total amount of funding committed would be £1,685,748 for 68 projects. The Committee was informed that in order to support as many communities as possible and make remaining funds go as far as possible, it was proposed to lower the maximum amount of funding available for future Cultivate applications to £15k.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Welcomed the high quality of applications that had been considered at the Recommendation Panel meeting.
- Paid tribute to officers for supporting applicants throughout the process, regardless of whether the applications had been successful or not, noting that projects were signposted and helped to obtain funding elsewhere.
- Emphasised the importance of supporting a continuation of the Innovate and Cultivate Fund in the development of future budgets.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Agree to fund the following eight applications through the Innovate funding stream:
 - A Mindful Paws - A Mindful Paws
 - Caring Together - Counselling for Carers
 - Centre 33 - Guided Self-Help for Targeted Young People
 - Connected Lives - Connected Lives Cambridgeshire Hub
 - KICK - Siblings Project
 - Littleport Parish Council - Community Link Worker
 - Red Hen Project - Bridging the Gap - Red Hen Early Help
 - St Ives Town Council - St Ives Cares Part II
- b) Agree that future grants for the two funding streams be allocated as follows:
 - Cultivate: £2000 - £15,000
 - Innovate: £15,001 - £50,000.

327. Communities and Partnership Committee Review of Draft Revenue and Capital Business Planning Proposals for 2021-2026

The Committee received a report which provided information on the current business and budgetary planning position and estimates for 2021-2026, the impact of COVID-19 on the 2021-2022 financial position, and the principal risks, contingencies and implications facing the Committee and the Council's resources. The Chairman noted that he had accepted it as a late report in order to collate and analyse the most up to date financial, local and national data sets and to enable the Committee's views to be available to the General Purposes Committee when it reviewed the budget proposals on 22nd December 2020.

It had been reported to Committee in October that the Council would be required to identify £32.8m of savings, and the Senior Finance Business Partner noted that this figure had been reduced to £20.8m over the previous two months. A number of savings across areas within the remit of the Committee had been identified,

amounting to an accumulative total of £200k, with a final proposal to be considered in February 2021. Acknowledging the relatively modest level of savings, the Service Director for Communities and Partnerships emphasised that the Committee operated on a significantly lower budget than other committees, while its Think Communities work concurrently allowed those other committees to make savings on their own expenditure. The Chairman informed the Committee that despite £200k being the target for savings, this figure would be reduced if it was judged on deeper analysis that the savings would negatively affect the services currently being provided.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Observed that the report had been written before the government’s Spending Review 2020, which had been presented on 25th November, and queried whether the measures included in the review, such as the partial public sector pay freeze or reallocation of funding, would affect the budget proposals. The Service Director informed Members that the details of the Spending Review were still to be reflected in the business planning work, although he reassured Members that the Council’s final budget figures would reflect any guidance published by the government.
- Expressed support for the principle of making savings that would not negatively affect the provision of services although expressed concern that the exact nature of the savings was not identified in the report. The Service Director confirmed that the proposed savings did not include service or staff reductions and that they would mostly be achieved by a process of desktop reviewing and reorganising. He provided some examples of savings that had been identified, such as the fact that the registration service had been overachieving and that given it was anticipated for this overachievement to be sustained, despite the impacts of the pandemic, the expectation level had been adjusted accordingly which would result in increased income. He undertook to provide an update on the nature of the savings at the Committee meeting on 21st January 2021. **Action required**

A recorded vote was taken on the recommendations, the results of which were as follows:

For: (7) Cllrs A Costello, S Criswell, L Every, J French, E Meschini, L Nieto and M Smith

Abstain: (2) Cllrs B Ashwood and A Taylor

It was resolved to:

- a) Note the progress made to date and next steps required to develop the business plan for 2021-2026;
- b) Note the impact of COVID-19 on the Council’s financial planning;
- c) Endorse the budget and savings proposals that are within the remit of the Committee as part of consideration of the Council’s overall Business Plan;

- d) Endorse the changes to the capital programme that are within the remit of the Committee as part of consideration of the Council's overall Business Plan; and
- e) Note the updates to fees and charges for 2021-22.

328. Performance Report – Quarter 2 2020-21 Financial Year

The Committee received a report which provided updates on the status of performance indicators for the services within its remit. The Head of Business Intelligence noted that all the indicators had been affected by the pandemic for various reasons. Library closures had affected visitor numbers, although attendance of online events had increased, and while learner registrations had dropped, there had been a strong retention and achievement of current learners. Hate crime figures had increased, as had those of domestic violence, although these latter figures had begun to steady out. Due to exam disruptions, educational attainment data had been unavailable and would be included in the subsequent report. It was noted that the employment data was based on a rolling yearly average and therefore not as sensitive to labour market changes as other measurements, such as the number of people accessing Universal Credit, which had increased significantly. While employment support schemes would provide some mitigation, a significant impact was expected when they ended in March 2021.

The Service Director expressed concern about the upward trend in numbers of hate crime incidents and reporting and informed the Committee that the Service Director report in January 2021 would analyse the figures and profiles of hate crimes, and set out what the Council was doing to confront the situation. **Action required**

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note and comment on performance information; and
- b) Suggest or recommend remedial action as necessary.

329. Finance Monitoring Report – December 2020

The Committee received the December 2020 Finance Monitoring Report for the People and Communities directorate, which covered the period to the end of October 2020. The directorate's forecast overspend of £12.1m, of which £2.3m related to services within the Committee's remit, generally arose from pressures resulting from the pandemic's impact. This included costs related to the Covid-19 Coordination and Response Hub, as well as increased costs for the coroner service for post-mortems in deaths suspected to involve Covid-19. It was noted that there had been a loss of income for the registration service due to restrictions on ceremonies, and also for the library service due to building closures.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Review and comment on the report.

330. Community Champions Oral Updates

The Committee noted oral updates provided by the following Community Champions:

- Councillor French (Fenland), who informed the committee of local groups that would be cooking and delivering more than 500 meals over Christmas, as well as holding multiple daily sittings, thanks to the involvement of food banks and the financial support provided by local people and organisations. She also drew attention to a local resident who was producing facemasks and a new 'baby bank' that was operating from St Peter's church hall in March on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Councillor Meschini (Cambridge), who praised the work of Cambridge City Council in helping to provide for families. Noting delays to some projects due to ongoing personnel changes at the City Council, she emphasised the importance and resourcefulness of place coordinators in ensuring that necessary projects were undertaken whenever possible. She noted her intention to help expand the impact of projects as broadly as possible.
- Councillor Every (East Cambridgeshire), who welcomed her participation in the cross party working group for post-pandemic recovery in East Cambridgeshire and noted how it helped to identify evolving needs across the area. She informed Members that the Ely and District Volunteer Centre, which brought local volunteers together, had received a grant from East Cambridgeshire District Council and would provide additional training. She also noted improvements that had been made in the ability to quickly distribute information regarding scams. A written update was provided and attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.
- Councillor Costello (Huntingdonshire), who informed the Committee that 250 items had been distributed around Huntingdonshire by Winter Warmers, with future collections hoping to receive further donations. A written update was provided and attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

331. Communities and Partnership Committee Agenda Plan

The Committee noted its Agenda Plan.

Chairman
21st January 2021

Community Champion of Community Activity Update

Community Champion: Cllr Lis Every

Place: East Cambridgeshire

Date: 3 December 2020

Update	
<p>A good quality of life for everyone Gain a deep understanding at a District/City level through discussion with officers and local members where appropriate, of key issues which impact on demand for County Council Services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of the review of how the problem solving and delivery groups support the CSP; set up steering group for Safer Streets initiative; working with ECDC Operations Director on new 'Happy at Home' project which will be part of the CSP; • Working with Place Based Co-ordinator on the roll out of Cambridgeshire Live; • Working with VCAEC on developing their Volunteering service alongside ECDC (supported by their grant) and re-introducing training courses for Parish Councils; • Working with Littleport Parish councillors on their Innovate Bid; • Produced a paper to City of Ely Council to agree to adopt the running of a newly proposed Community Hub for North Ely which was agreed.
<p>The best start for Cambridgeshire's Children. Focussing on relevant issues for the District/City, report back to Committee and the Communities Network on areas of strength and areas for improvement which would strengthen impact on outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Strategy is developing and meetings have been held between ECDC and CCC officers on the roll out of the Youth Advisory Board; • Meetings have started on the feasibility of the Splash Pad initiative; • Working on widening the young people in care voices to members through the Children in Care Council; • Investigating the level of school/business activity that we can expect in East Cambridgeshire through the new contract awarded by the Combined Authority; • Part of the newly formed Steering Group for the proposed Local Education Partnership for East Cambridgeshire.
<p>Thriving place for people to live Engaging and working with communities and other elected representatives for relevant Divisions as needed across the District so people's voices are heard and self-sustaining</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed work on the ECDC cross-party post Covid and Bus Review Working Parties; latter to be submitted to Combined Authority; • Work continues with Library Presents, Ely Museum, Cambridgeshire Music, business groups and hosting a webinar on apprenticeships for East Cambs and Fenland next week; • Heading the new Friends of the Sessions House in Ely promoting it as an art, heritage and community centre for the wider area.

communities are encouraged.	
Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with ECDC and the City of Ely Council's on implementation of their policies (member of both the relevant committees) on Climate change.
Sustainability of initiatives and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathering case studies together of good practice, working on sustainable structures for continuity, supporting Cambridgeshire Live initiatives.
Community Good Practice	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the projects above have been based on research and as a result of collaboration, facilitation, partnership alignment and community engagement in order to leave a legacy of strengthened local partnerships and developing community assets. 	

Community Champion of Community Activity Update

Community Champion: Cllr Adela Costello

Place: Huntingdonshire

Date: 3 December 2020

Update	
<p>A good quality of life for everyone Gain a deep understanding at a District/City level through discussion with officers and local members where appropriate, of key issues which impact on demand for County Council Services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essentials by Sue and Winter Warmers reduces the impact on County Council Services by accepting donations of items and distributing them to the most vulnerable within the local community; • Working with Place based Co-ordinators to arrange consultations/meetings in service delivery areas.
<p>The best start for Cambridgeshire's Children. Focussing on relevant issues for the District/City, report back to Committee and the Communities Network on areas of strength and areas for improvement which would strengthen impact on outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children having access to suitable warm clothing during the winter months in particular those in fuel poverty; • Older children having opportunities to collect necessary toiletries to enhance their daily lives; • Supporting opportunities for early years' children to access play and learn social activities; • Taking responsibility as a Corporate Parent for our Children in Care.
<p>Thriving place for people to live Engaging and working with communities and other elected representatives for relevant Divisions as needed across the District so people's voices are heard and self-sustaining communities are encouraged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging and working with local organisations throughout Huntingdonshire to provide for district communities to enable them to be self-sustaining and have a voice.
<p>Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging cycle ways throughout the District and locally within my ward;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspire parish employment opportunities reducing the need to travel using carbon fuelled vehicles plus promoting the use of electric cars; • Work with local parishes to bring tree planting in community green areas which will enhance the environment and will help to improve air quality with successful management of trees and woodlands • Virtual meetings will continue to reduce carbon emissions as people work from home • Local parish councils to offer opportunities for allotment tenants to grow organically.
<p>Sustainability of initiatives and activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essentials by Sue has proved problematic during the Covid -19 period as firstly schools/Youth Clubs and public building such as libraries were closed. Even though everything opened again, it was on a very limited basis and although some have managed to continue with the project, others faced problems with collection and distribution of items. This may be resolved in 2021; • A new initiative, Winter Warmers asking for donations of knitted/crocheted items such as blankets, shawls, hats, scarves and gloves from local organisations, commenced in October. The assembly points for donations were to be the libraries in our four major towns which would then have been collected and stored in a warehouse to be distributed as required. Unfortunately, the second lockdown came into place and the libraries could not continue to be recipients. However, the knitters in Ramsey, including the W.I., U3A and Timebank volunteers were not prepared to wait and I personally collected all items and stored them safely under Covid-19 regulations. Over 250 pieces of knitwear were collected and distributed to Ramsey Foodbank, P3 (charity working with homeless people) Coneygear Centre in Huntingdon where staff apportioned them to the elderly plus Cornerstone, a charity working with young mums with babies/children. A new drop-off time at the libraries has been advertised for week beginning 14th December.
<p>Community Good Practice</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint working between Officers and Members of HDC and CCC plus local parishes and organisations such as Hunts Forum during this difficult time. Liaising with the libraries to deliver opportunities; • Linking with groups who are able to provide support for the most vulnerable in our local communities, for instance the W.I. and U3A plus others; 	

- Ensuring that members of the public have access to all necessary and vital information through local media sites.