

LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

To: **Communities and Partnership Committee**

Meeting Date: **8 November 2018**

From: **Elaine Matthews: Strengthening Communities Manager**

Electoral division(s): **All excluding Cambridge City**

Forward Plan ref: **N/A** **Key decision:** **No**

Purpose: **To consider progress against the 5 year Local Council Development Plan and the next phase of delivery.**

Recommendation: **Communities and Partnership Committee is asked:**

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

<i>Officer contact:</i>		<i>Member contacts:</i>	
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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Last year, a 5 year Local Council Development Plan was launched at the Countywide Local Council Conference.
- 1.2 It was developed alongside Local Councils, District Councils, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC), and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC), co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire ACRE (Cambridgeshire's Rural Community Council) as part of the Support Cambridgeshire contract.
- 1.3 It sets out our collective aspirations for Cambridgeshire's Local Council sector and recognises the need to strengthen support, engagement and collaboration between these partners to support Local Council ambitions for their communities.

2. PROGRESS ON THE LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 2.1 Over the last 12 months significant progress has been made against the action plan. Highlights include the following:
 - CAPALC has launched a new website (<http://www.capalc.org.uk>) with additional helpful content for local councils, a more regular bulletin and new Twitter and Facebook feeds
 - Under the Local Council Award Scheme 5 Local Councils have now reached Foundation level, with 9 more working towards it; 4 Local Councils have been accredited at Quality level and 1 at Quality Gold level, with one more working towards this
 - SLCC have held 2 Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) training courses: http://www.capalc.org.uk/CiLCA_Training_22256.aspx and established a mentoring scheme for new clerks: http://www.capalc.org.uk/Local_Council_Award_Scheme_Information_19187.aspx
 - CCC has published six editions of Cambridgeshire Matters, an e-newsletter for local councils <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/briefings/>
 - CCC has launched a new mechanism for highways issues reporting and a refreshed Local Highways Improvement Scheme: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/improving-your-local-highway/local-highway-improvement-funding/>
 - Cambridgeshire ACRE have held 2 peer learning and networking events, one on Neighbourhood Planning and the other on 'busting the myths' around Rural Affordable Housing. 79 clerks and councillors took part. Further networking has taken place at Local Council Stakeholder Group events and SLCC Cambridgeshire Branch Meetings. 165 people attended the 2017 countywide Town and Parish Council conference (more than in 2016) with an 85% approval rating

- The expansion of the Strategic Group (partners outlined in 1.2) to include to the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 Over the next 12 months, Cambridgeshire ACRE, as part of the Support Cambridgeshire work, will be repeating the biennial survey with Parish Councillors and Clerks to enable us to evaluate the impact of our overall collaborative approach against the social impact measurements set out in the Development Plan under 'How will we know we have been successful?'. This will also help us understand any emerging priorities from the Local Council Sector.
- 3.2 The next countywide Local Council Conference will be taking place on Friday 23rd November (<https://cambsparishes.wordpress.com/conference-2018/>). Sponsorship has been secured from the Combined Authority for a bigger all day event focused on 'Building more sustainable and resilient rural villages and towns'. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Mayor, James Palmer, will be the keynote speaker followed by a series of good practice workshops which will be led or supported by local councils on:
- Market Town Masterplans: the Role of Local Councils
 - Realising the capabilities of parish councils
 - The role of Community Led Housing in Cambridgeshire's rural communities
 - Community Engagement – Challenges and Opportunities
 - Be Prepared! How you can mobilise your community in an emergency
 - Undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan in your Parish
 - Improving collaborative working between Clerks and Councillors
 - Harnessing nature to power our future: Local Councils and renewable energy generation
- 3.3 Partners will work together to seek further investment to support more ambitious areas of work that are currently not funded. This will increase the capacity of support organisations to increase the overall support available to Local Councils.

4. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- A number of Local Councils already have links with local businesses and support schemes that help people develop their skills. This work will support those Local Councils who are keen to do the same.

4.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

The following sets out implications identified by officers:

- A number of Local Councils already deliver work that supports people to lead healthy and independent lives. This work will support those Local Councils who are keen to do the same.

4.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

The following bullet point sets out details of implications identified by officers:

- A number of Local Councils already deliver work that supports and protects vulnerable people. This work will support those Local Councils who are keen to do the same. Next year, one of the peer learning events will focus on 'How your community can look after its most vulnerable residents'.

5. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Resource Implications

County Council resources for this work are already identified in the Council's budget for 2018/19. Additional investment is currently being explored from other sources

5.2 Procurement implications

The following bullet point set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Support Cambridgeshire's grant agreement was subject to a full tendering process in 2016 in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules

5.3 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

The following bullet point set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- There is a continuing legal duty on local authorities to ensure that vulnerable people are not exposed to additional or unreasonable levels of risk as a result of the implementation of these strategic objectives

5.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

The following bullet points set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Evidence indicates that some services delivered within local communities can be more successful than statutory services at reaching people who may need support. Building capacity within local communities to help people help each other should therefore support more equal and diverse accessible provision locally
- Some of our services will become increasingly more localised, so that we can meet local and individual need within each specific community context
- This work will help to address issues of rural isolation

5.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Successful delivery of all aspects of the development plan will only be possible with significant engagement with our partners and Local Councils

5.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- The work set out in the development plan will help empower Local Councils to harness the energy of local communities. The role of Members is crucial to help build relationships with Local Councils

5.6 Public Health Implications

The following bullet point set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- A number of Local Councils already deliver work that supports the adoption of a healthy lifestyle and builds engagement in health improving initiatives. This work will support those Local Councils who are keen to do the same

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Martin Wade/ Tom Kelly
Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Paul White
Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Yes Name of Legal Officer: Salma Kantharia/Tolani Baci
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: Matthew Hall
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: Tess Campbell

Source Documents	Location
Cambridgeshire Local Council Development Plan 2017-2022	https://cambsparishes.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/01_local_council_development_plan.pdf