

COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 23rd January 2020

Time: 10:00am – 11:45am

Venue: Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall

Present: Councillors: S Criswell (Chairman), M Goldsack (Vice-Chairman),
D Ambrose Smith, B Ashwood, A Costello, J French, L Nieto,
C Richards, A Taylor, S Taylor

Apologies: Councillor L Every

230. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies were received from Councillor Every (substituted by Councillor Ambrose Smith).

Councillor French made a non-statutory disclosable interest regarding agenda item 4 (Growing Fenland – Town Reports), as having contributed in the development of the Growing Fenland project in her roles as a Fenland district councillor and March town councillor.

Councillor Nieto made a non-statutory disclosable interest regarding agenda item 8 (Innovate and Cultivate Fund – Endorsement of Recommendations), as the local Member for Hardwick.

231. MINUTES – 17TH DECEMBER 2019

While considering the Committee's Action Log, the Service Director: Community and Safety drew attention to the fact that a number of the ongoing actions would be addressed in reports to be presented at forthcoming Committee meetings, including an interim report on the review of the Coroner Service on 12th March 2020. With regard to Minute No. 222, Members were informed that a workshop had been held to consider potential members of the Huntingdonshire Think Communities Delivery Board, although a final selection had not been determined. Councillor S Taylor confirmed that a venue, date and time had been arranged for the next pre-application drop in session (Minute No. 224).

It was resolved unanimously to:

Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2019 as a correct record and to note the action log.

232. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No petitions or public questions were received.

233. GROWING FENLAND – TOWN REPORTS

The Committee was asked to consider and endorse relevant aspects of the Growing Fenland strategic report and individual town reports. Members were informed that three Fenland towns had initially been selected by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) to receive funding and a fourth had later been incorporated. Attention was drawn to the extensive research and data collection that had been carried out by Metro Dynamics, including engagement sessions, local workshops and consultations with Town Teams. The Business Spaces Manager from the CPCA noted that while the four Fenland market towns were unique to each other, certain trends and shared objectives had been brought together in the overriding 'Growing Fenland – Strategy Proposals for the Fenland District' document.

The Service Director of Community and Safety observed that a similar report would be considered by the Economy and Environment Committee on 6th February 2020, although the two committees would be considering different aspects of the projects, with the Communities and Partnership Committee being asked to focuss on the people and communities aspects of the projects.

While discussing the reports, Members:

- Requested a timeline for how the masterplans would proceed. The Business Spaces Manager informed the Committee that the town reports from Fenland District would be considered for approval by the CPCA Board at its meeting on 29th January 2020. It was further planned for those from towns in Huntingdonshire to be considered by the CPCA Board on 25th March 2020 and those from East Cambridgeshire on 3rd June 2020. Once all the masterplans had been approved, the CPCA would issue a funding call for the distribution of £5m before a final sign off on project spending.
- Observed that Fenland District Council had taken 18 months to produce town reports for the district and expressed concern that Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire would struggle to complete their respective town reports as required by the timeline laid out by the Business Spaces Manager. One Member noted that Littleport Vision 2030 had already been approved by East Cambridgeshire District Council, which was coordinating the projects in East Cambridgeshire, following extensive work and consultation with the local community and the CPCA, with the document to serve as the basis for the town masterplan.
- Expressed concern over the length of time between projects being approved and implemented, as had been experienced in the pilot scheme in St Neots. Members were informed that the delays in St Neots were due to additional, unexpected hurdles, such as a requirement to produce Environmental Impact Assessments, and that a lot of work and progress had been achieved meanwhile behind the scenes. It was noted that the £5m of funding had been committed to the projects by the CPCA and the funds had been ring-fenced in the budget, thus ensuring that there would be no issues regarding the removal of financial backing.
- Sought clarification on the proposed composition of the Mayoral Task Force that had been recommended in the Fenland District report, along with how it would function in order to drive and monitor delivery of the projects. The Committee agreed that the Council should have representation on the Task Force and although it was noted that the group had still not been formed, the Service Director of Community and

Safety agreed to update the Committee once agreement had been reached. **Action required**

- Noted that improvements to public transport was an issue that occurred repeatedly throughout the town reports, with one Member drawing attention to the reports' recommendation for full bus franchising. It was noted that the CPCA was in the process of carrying out a bus review, which involved engagement with bus companies, local authorities and public transport users, with a report expected to be presented to the CPCA Board in July 2020. A public consultation would follow the report's consideration by the Board, culminating in a final decision on outcomes in early 2021. Members requested that a report be presented to the Committee regarding the bus review and its impacts on local communities. **Action required**
- Expressed concern over the challenges in providing early years support, as indicated in the reports. The Service Director of Community and Safety informed Members that he had discussed the contents of the reports with the Director of Education, who had welcomed the narrative but remained realistic regarding funding prospects. He also noted that early years support was shifting from a care-based approach to one focussed more on education. It was agreed that the Committee should consider the issue at a future meeting. **Action required**
- Suggested that £5m shared between ten local authorities did not represent a particularly significant level of funding, especially considering the fact that the pilot scheme in St Neots had received over £4m on its own. The Business Spaces Manager acknowledged the concern and informed Members that the majority of funding received by St Neots was for the new bridge in the town centre, and served to demonstrate the need to have a market town program and the kind of incomes that could be obtained. It was also noted that the evidence base created by the masterplans would help to ensure a seamless transition to further funding from the CPCA's high street regeneration fund, as well as serving to incentivise income from other sources.
- Established that no funding decisions would be made until all proposals had been received, thus ensuring a level playing field for all market towns, although it was acknowledged that the market towns would receive different amounts to one another based on the needs identified by each town in their respective process.
- Clarified that St Neots had matched the funding provided by the CPCA but suggested that smaller towns, such as Chatteris and Ramsey, might struggle to do so. Members were informed that final details of the requirements for a funding call had yet to be decided, although it was noted that matched funding could come from alternative funders to local authorities.
- Sought reassurances that the Priory Centre in St Neots would continue to serve as an important hub for community activity and would not be replaced by residential buildings. The Business Spaces Manager confirmed that redevelopment of the area would not involve removal of the Priory Centre.
- Noted that all local authorities would appreciate the £50k pot recommended for Chatteris Town Council (p97 of the report) to administer against worthy projects to improve the appearance and visual amenity of the town centre area.

- Identified the need to align the projects with the Council's place-based approach and geographies stemming from Think Communities. The Service Director of Community and Safety informed the Committee that it would have the opportunity to either consider the town reports submitted by Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire or receive a summary report that covered all ten final submissions.

Action required

- Considered the role that large employers could take in alleviating transport issues, for example by providing their own form of transport for employees or encouraging carpooling.
- Encouraged greater involvement of County Councillors, especially those who did not also sit on town or district councils.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Consider and discuss relevant aspects of the strategic report and the individual town reports (for example, those associated with community, social, economic and skills opportunities);
- b) Consider and agree how best it can contribute to the reports' findings and their implementation; and
- c) Endorse those aspects of the reports relevant to the Committee's remit.

234. CUSPE – HOW TO DESIGN THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT TODAY

The Committee received a report from the Cambridge University Science and Policy Exchange (CUSPE) on how to design the future of local government today. While presenting the report, members of the CUSPE research team noted the problems caused by having multiple levels of local government in Cambridgeshire when faced by challenges such as climate change and changing demographics. The Wayfinder guide would allow the different authorities to work together to develop resilience on such issues and it also aligned closely to the Council's Think Communities approach.

Place-based coalitions that involved people both providing and receiving a service, and which could interact with local authorities, would allow local people to represent their community in specific areas of provision. The researchers suggested that one of the first tasks for the coalitions would be to formulate a change narrative to previous and current work. It was also proposed to Members that a charter for flexible funding would ensure a link between the place-based coalitions and local authorities, while also establishing the expectations of each individual level of local government.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Welcomed the work carried out by the CUSPE research team and the academic perspective that it provided of the Council's Think Communities approach, noting that they had presented the concepts behind the approach in a clear and understandable way. Members also expressed their appreciation for the benefits that Council received from the partnership that had been established with CUSPE.

- Considered the definition of 'community' and how people perceived themselves to be a part of a community, suggesting that people defined their community by where they live or work, rather than boundaries such as those adopted by Think Communities. Officers acknowledged the concerns and the inter-connected layers of communities but noted that the Think Communities boundaries were not intended to define communities and only existed in order to collate data in a pragmatic way for the public sector. It was also noted that the area boundaries would constantly evolve to address arising issues and improve information sharing, with all Local Members to be involved in establishing the boundaries within their wards.
- Noted that the researchers had found it rewarding to develop and amplify work that was already underway by developing research that the Council could then adopt internally and continue to extend.
- Established that the research had included looking at other place-based models and case studies that had been published in recent years.
- Expressed support for the Chairman's suggestion to develop a Cambridgeshire version of the Wigan Deal and to put into practice the findings of the research team. A further recommendation, (recommendation 'c' below) was proposed by the Chairman to ensure that this would occur. The Services Director of Community and Safety informed Members that there would also be a Committee workshop dedicated to a Think Communities 'deal' on 16th April 2020.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note and comment on the findings of the research undertaken by CUSPE into the question of how to design the future of local government today;
- b) Consider the recommendations made by CUSPE for Think Communities, as detailed in paragraph 2.6; and
- c) Task officers to prepare for a Committee workshop in April, at which the following will be presented for discussion:
 - (i) A detailed countywide implementation plan which embeds the Wayfinder process into the continued evolution of the Think Communities approach, including a timed roadmap, resource implications, dependencies and named lead officers
 - (ii) Details of the place-based teams in each of the agreed service delivery areas, the rationale for that composition, and the timescales for introducing those teams into each area
 - (iii) Proposals for funding arrangements within service delivery areas, focussing initially on alternative commissioning arrangements
 - (iv) A draft Principles for Good Practice Charter
 - (v) Draft deals, initially between:
 - i. Council and health partners across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
 - ii. All partners within a service delivery area; and
 - iii. Public sector partners and communities within a service delivery area.

235. SHARED AND INTEGRATED SERVICES UPDATE

The Committee received a report that provided an overview of the work on the Shared and Integrated Services Programme between Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council since its previous update in July 2019. The Director of Business Improvement and Development drew Members' attention to the highlights and priorities laid out in the report, which included a joint IT and Digital Strategy, the development of a joint Communications team, the sharing of corporate functions, extending the People and Communities directorate's ability to work in a place-based way, and governance issues. It was noted that further to annual reviews carried out by the Council on matters such as financial protocols, Members had requested a Member-led review to be carried out, which would commence in February 2020.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Expressed concerns over the risks that the County Council would be exposed to by any financial problems encountered by Peterborough City Council. Members were assured by the Director of Business Improvements and Development that contingency plans had always been prepared for such eventualities and while the reputational or political risks were harder to anticipate and prepare for, detailed protocols had been established with regard to financial risks.
- Established that the financial protocol was based on the population numbers of the local authority areas, which led to a split of 73% for Cambridgeshire and 27% for Peterborough. While some services saw resources split along such lines, others operated on an equal basis for logistical and practical reasons, with each case decided individually. The Director of Business Improvements and Development presented her own role as such an example, with half her time being dedicated to the County Council and the other half to Peterborough City Council.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Note and comment on the key areas that have progressed during the monitoring period and the next critical stages of work between now and the end of March 2020.

236. COUNTY COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO ADDRESSING HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS – SIX MONTHS PROGRESS UPDATE

The Committee received a progress report on the cross Council Officer Working Group's activity since July 2019. Members' attention was drawn to the priority areas laid out in section 2 of the report, which detailed the progress that had been achieved and the next steps for each area. The Assistant Director of Housing, Communities and Youth noted that much of the work was carried out with partner organisations and authorities, but that the report's contents were specific to what the Council would do.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Suggested that there should be a link in priority one to the work carried out by Cambridgeshire Skills to provide skills to adults in order to help them find work. The Assistant Director of Housing, Communities and Youth informed Members that the

Council had recently commissioned an external organisation to work on priority one and she agreed to ask them to engage with Cambridgeshire Skills.

- Queried how mental health problems were being taken into consideration when considering the issues surrounding homelessness. Members were informed that the Council's 'Counting Every Adult' service worked in exactly this area, although it was acknowledged that greater attention could be given to the issue in the Council's approach.
- Considered the difficulties in defining different sectors of the workforce and it was noted that research had been carried out to establish how this was done by other organisations. Once an evidence base had been established, a proper analysis could be carried out to ensure that the workforce received the levels of affordable homes that were required.
- Identified overlaps with the market town strategies discussed in agenda item 4 and queried whether officers were coordinating between the two projects. The Assistant Director of Housing, Communities and Youth acknowledged the overlap and undertook to establish the level of cooperation and report back to the Committee.

Action required

- Noted the creation of an Empty Homes Officer role by Fenland District Council in a bid to resolve the anomaly of having 1400 empty homes in the district while people were sleeping or living on the streets.
- Confirmed that the Council engaged extensively with local providers on housing and homelessness issues.
- Sought clarification on the Council's efforts to assist care leavers with housing issues, especially given the high cost of accommodation in Cambridgeshire and the difficulties for care leavers in affording and accessing it. The Director of Housing, Communities and Youth informed Members that such issues were looked at during needs assessments, although she acknowledged that it was important to be aware of any gaps in the provision. One Member argued that care leavers should be exempt from paying Council Tax.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note the Working Group's progress since July 2019;
- b) Consider and agree a revised Key Outcome for Cambridgeshire County Council in relation to housing and homelessness: "To play our part in contributing to the system-wide change required to improve housing and reduce homelessness across our County in order to achieve better outcomes for citizens"; and
- c) To support the ongoing activity of the Working Group and agree to receive an update in six months' time.

237. INNOVATE AND CULTIVATE FUND – ENDORSEMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee received a report which contained five recommended applications for funding from the Cultivate funding stream of the Innovate and Cultivate Fund (ICF). 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. Members were informed that discussions were being held with some of the applicants on potentially lowering their costs.

The Strengthening Communities Officer highlighted that a number of the applications were partnership projects, which the Council was trying to promote through the ICF process. Members' attention was drawn to the seed-funding nature of the Caldecote, Dry Drayton and Hardwick Community Scheme's Timebank, as well as the fact that the Forever Fit application would expand and develop work that was already under way. The application from the Huntington's Disease Foundation would fill a gap in the provision of much needed specialist support for sufferers of the disease, affording a significant level of support for a small amount of funding.

It was noted that, if approved, the applications represented estimated savings of up to £63k, which was £27k above the level of requested investment, although it was noted that the projects would also be expected to provide further savings in following years.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Noted that the applications were largely place-based bids and the Chairman informed Members that small local bids were particularly being encouraged.
- Welcomed the impact that could be felt by low-level funding of high quality projects.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Agree to fund the following five applications through the Cultivate funding stream:

- Caldecote, Dry Drayton and Hardwick Community Scheme
- Burwell and District Day Centre
- Fenland District Council – Active Fenland
- Sustainable Cottenham
- Huntington's Disease Association

238. FINANCE MONITORING REPORT – NOVEMBER 2019

The Committee received the November 2019 Finance Monitoring Report for People and Communities.

While discussing the report, Members:

- Expressed concern over the continued overspends by the Coroner Service and sought clarification on how the issue was being addressed. The Service Director of Community and Safety acknowledged the concerns and informed Members that a formal review meeting had been held with the Senior Coroner, who would be presenting an interim report to the Committee at its meeting on 12th March 2020. This had allowed for a clearer understanding to emerge of the pressures faced by the service, which were founded in features unique to Cambridgeshire. Members

were also assured that efforts were underway to obtain a greater resource allocation of national funding while simultaneously carrying out targeted changes within the service itself.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Review and comment on the report.

239. COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS ORAL UPDATES

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

- Councillor Costello (Huntingdonshire), who informed Members of the forthcoming launch of Essentials by Sue in St Neots, as well as dementia training for local Councillors in Huntingdonshire. A written update was also provided and is attached as **Appendix 1** to the minutes.
- Councillor French (Fenland), who reported on discussions that she had been involved in regarding Men's Shed and timebanking schemes in March.
- Councillor Richards (Cambridge City), who noted the continuing work on period poverty and an upcoming meeting with the Head of Adult Learning and Skills.

Councillor Every was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written update, which is attached as **Appendix 2** to the minutes.

240. COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE AGENDA PLAN

The Committee received the agenda plan which included the addition of reports to be presented at meetings in the 2020/2021 municipal year. The Service Director of Community and Safety noted that the nature of the Committee's work was dynamic and therefore the agenda plan was liable to evolve throughout the year and that some of the reserve meetings might become training workshops, Committee meetings, or a combination of the two.

Members expressed an interest in holding Committee meetings in different venues around the County, in accordance with the Think Communities approach. The Chairman agreed with the sentiments and informed Members that in the event of a suitable location coinciding with a relevant agenda item, such a venue change would be considered.

It was resolved unanimously to:

Note the Committee's agenda plan.

Chairman
12th March 2020

Community Champion of Community Activity update.

Community Champion:	Councillor Adela Costello
Place:	Huntingdonshire
Date:	Update for Communities and Partnership Committee on 23 January 2020

UPDATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essentials by Sue to be launched in St. Neots at beginning of March. Receptions areas are to be Paines Mill, the Priory Centre and Loves Farm. Bargroves staff happy to received donations and distribute to the other centres. Local schools supportive and will promote. • Monthly article in the local newspaper highlighting the work of the council plus the continued need to recruit foster carers and re-ablement workers. • Ramsey Neighbourhood Trust with local councillors to organise a summit at the end of April to discuss the local transport issues. Relevant people to be invited such as Mayor James Palmer, transport officers and representatives from the bus companies.
NEW CONTACTS, PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dementia awareness training session to be arranged for businesses in Ramsey at the end of February. • Following the meeting with a local councillor from St. Neots, dementia awareness training for town councillors will be taking place on 28th January. • A local parish councillors meeting took place on 21st January with parishes attending from Warboys to Sawtry. High on the agenda were the planning issues raised at the last meeting and Clara Kerr from the District attended. Another major issue was transport plus the effect the opening of the Huntingdon by pass was having on villages such as Alconbury and Abbots Ripton, which were now being used as a diversionary route to St. Ives.
COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint working between Officers and Members of HDC and CCC including Library Staff and local community groups in establishing 'Essentials by Sue' and promoting Dementia Friendly Communities. • Supporting Time Bank co-ordinators in identifying new projects which will benefit local people such as gritting pavements in the winter months. • Arranging meetings with local parish/town councillors and clerks to discuss issues in their areas. •

Community Champion of Community Activity update.

Community Champion:	Councillor Lis Every
Place:	East Cambridgeshire
Date:	Update for Communities and Partnership Committee on 23 January 2020

UPDATES

- Local provision for Adult Skills in East Cambs moving forward. Now a member of the Combined Authority on their Skills Committee. Working with the organisations dealing with NEETs in East Cambs to upskill young people who need Maths and English qualifications.
- East Cambs Youth Strategy working on introduction of the YAB and Student Council. First seminar on 16 January with professionals from other Councils and agencies.
- Working with CSP on the training programme for Eyes and Ears.
- Better communications through a bi-monthly newsletter – supporting awareness of the Think communities approach. Edition 2 in 2 months.
- Strategic plan for Littleport on social prescribing moving forward. Now seeking matched funding to support a co-ordinator. Recruitment process in place. Seminar/exhibition being planned for Autumn.
- Planning continues on turning Littleport into a Dementia town and working with stakeholders on how this can be achieved.
- Liaising on funding issues for the Soham Man Shed project.
- Supporting a group of young people in Ely and area on building a skate park, working on feasibility studies, sites etc
- Planning for the pilot for a Local offer plan for our care leavers in Cambridge City well in hand. Obtaining 10 business mentors for the initial group of 10 students. Working with Cambridge Regional College.
- Part of the multi-agency Mental Health Task Group for children in care researching the level of support provided by local universities.
- Working on widening Eyes and Ears project
- Identifying business mentoring for post-16 students and post-18 students leaving care.
- Discussions with VCAEC to extend car share scheme and attract volunteers outside Ely. Completely revamping provision and marketing strategy. Funding being sought.
- Continuing to work with City College, Peterborough to grow numbers on their Health and Social Care courses in East Cambridgeshire

COMMUNITY GOOD PRACTICE

- Initial research has been undertaken to identify the organisations in existence, what they currently offer; how these services could overlap and determining a network strategy;
- Working with parish and district councillors to create capacity and information base supporting their work in their Parishes/Wards as required;
- Building network of community providers and champions across the District.
- Improve communication with County, District and Parish Councillors, particularly embracing social media.