

The inaugural meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (COMMUNITIES AND CUSTOMERS)** will be held in **CIVIC SUITE 0.1A, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN** on **TUESDAY, 5TH JANUARY 2016** at **7:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

**Contact  
(01480)**

## **APOLOGIES**

### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

To elect a Chairman of the Panel.

### **2. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 8)**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being) meeting held on 1st December 2015.

**A Green  
388008**

### **3. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary and other interests in relation to any Agenda item.

### **4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

To appoint a Vice-Chairman of the Panel.

### **5. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS (Pages 9 - 14)**

A copy of the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions is attached. Members are invited to note the Plan and to comment as appropriate on any items contained therein.

**M Sage  
388007**

### **6. HUNTINGDONSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP'S PERFORMANCE 2014/15 (Pages 15 - 26)**

Chief Inspector Laura Hunt will be in attendance to discuss the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership's Performance and the crime statistics for Huntingdonshire.

**A Green  
388008**

### **7. VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT FUNDING 2016/17 TO 2019/20 (Pages 27 - 66)**

Details of the Voluntary Sector Grant Funding for 2016/17 to 2019/20 is to be presented to the Panel.

**C Stopford  
388280**

### **8. ANNUAL EQUALITY PROGRESS REPORT 2015 (Pages 67 - 72)**

The Annual Equality Progress Report 2015 is to be presented to the Panel.

L Sboui  
388032

**9. RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING WORKING GROUP** (Pages 73 - 78)

To receive a report on the Cabinet's response to the recommendations of the Affordable Housing Working Group.

M Sage  
388007

**10. WORKPLAN STUDIES** (Pages 79 - 80)

To consider the work programmes of the Economy and Growth and Finance and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

A Green  
388008

**11. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROGRESS** (Pages 81 - 86)

To consider a report on the Panel's activities and scrutinise decisions taken since the last meeting as set out in the Decision Digest (circulated separately).

A Green  
388008

Dated this 23rd day of December 2015



Head of Paid Service

**Notes**

**1. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

(1) *Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and unless you have obtained dispensation, cannot discuss or vote on the matter at the meeting and must also leave the room whilst the matter is being debated or voted on.*

(2) *A Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest if it -*

*(a) relates to you, or  
(b) is an interest of -*

- (i) your spouse or civil partner; or*
- (ii) a person with whom you are living as husband and wife; or*
- (iii) a person with whom you are living as if you were civil partners*

*and you are aware that the other person has the interest.*

(3) *Disclosable pecuniary interests includes -*

- (a) any employment or profession carried out for profit or gain;*
- (b) any financial benefit received by the Member in respect of expenses incurred carrying out his or her duties as a Member (except from the Council);*
- (c) any current contracts with the Council;*
- (d) any beneficial interest in land/property within the Council's area;*
- (e) any licence for a month or longer to occupy land in the Council's area;*
- (f) any tenancy where the Council is landlord and the Member (or person in (2)(b) above) has a beneficial interest; or*
- (g) a beneficial interest (above the specified level) in the shares of any body which has a place of business or land in the Council's area.*

**Non-Statutory Disclosable Interests**

- (4) *If a Member has a non-statutory disclosable interest then you are required to declare that interest, but may remain to discuss and vote providing you do not breach the overall Nolan principles.*
- (5) *A Member has a non-statutory disclosable interest where -*
- (a) a decision in relation to the business being considered might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of you or a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the authority's administrative area, or*
  - (b) it relates to or is likely to affect a disclosable pecuniary interest, but in respect of a member of your family (other than specified in (2)(b) above) or a person with whom you have a close association, or*
  - (c) it relates to or is likely to affect any body –*
    - (i) exercising functions of a public nature; or*
    - (ii) directed to charitable purposes; or*
    - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a Member or in a position of control or management.*

*and that interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest.*

## **2. Filming, Photography and Recording at Council Meetings**

*The District Council supports the principles of openness and transparency in its decision making and permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. It also welcomes the use of social networking and micro-blogging websites (such as Twitter and Facebook) to communicate with people about what is happening at meetings. Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with guidelines agreed by the Council and available via the following link [filming,photography-and-recording-at-council-meetings.pdf](#) or on request from the Democratic Services Team. The Council understands that some members of the public attending its meetings may not wish to be filmed. The Chairman of the meeting will facilitate this preference by ensuring that any such request not to be recorded is respected.*

**Please contact Mr Adam Green, Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny), Tel No. 01480 388008/e-mail [Adam.Green@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Adam.Green@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee/Panel.**

**Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.**

**Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.**

*Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the District Council's website – [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk) (under Councils and Democracy).*

**If you would like a translation of Agenda/Minutes/Reports or would like a large text version or an audio version please contact the Elections & Democratic Services Manager and we will try to accommodate your needs.**

***Emergency Procedure***

*In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.*

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SOCIAL WELL-BEING) held in Civic Suite 0.1A, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 1st December 2015.

PRESENT: Councillor S J Criswell – Chairman.

Councillors D Brown, M Francis, R Fuller, T Hayward, Mrs P A Jordan and P Kadewere.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs R E Mathews, D J Mead, M C Oliver and Mrs D C Reynolds.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor D B Dew.

### **50. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 3rd November 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **51. MEMBER'S INTERESTS**

Councillor S J Criswell declared a non-statutory disclosable interest in Minute Number 53 by virtue of his Membership of Cambridgeshire County Council.

### **52. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

The Panel received and noted the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which has been prepared by the Executive Leader for the period 1st December 2015 to 31st March 2016.

### **53. CAMBRIDGESHIRE HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY (CHIA) SHARED SERVICE REVIEW AND DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT BUDGET**

With the aid of a report by the Housing Strategy Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency (CHIA) Shared Service Review and Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) report was presented to the Panel. Members were advised that the CHIA shared service had been in operation since 1st April 2012 and required Cabinet approval to be extended for a further two years.

The Panel had been informed that CHIA had dealt with 437 enquiries within the District during 2014/15. Customer satisfaction for the District was 89% which was lower than Cambridge City (97%) and South Cambridgeshire (100%). The average time taken to complete works following a referral within the District was 26.3 weeks on cases costing below £10k and 69.6 weeks on cases costing above £10k.

Both were above their respective key performance targets of 26 weeks (below £10k) and 45 weeks (above £10k). It was noted that works costing above £10k are complex involving multi agencies and often require planning permission which accounts for some of the time.

Members noted that CHIA delivered a surplus of £18k at the end of year 3 which had been reinvested in a procurement programme. The Panel was advised that East Cambridgeshire District Council had decided not to join CHIA.

Following a query regarding the timescales Members were informed that the timescales include the entire process from assessment to sourcing quotes to carrying out the work. For low level work such as the installation of a rail, people can access a handyman service so that the work can be carried out swiftly. The Panel requested further statistics on how the time is broken down between lead in time and improvement works.

The Panel discussed the £18k surplus and was advised that it was as a result of the operational budget generating a surplus.

Members were advised that there was more DFGs in the District compared to Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire because the District's population is larger and older. In addition Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire had council housing and the District does not meaning that the District had to use DFGs to make improvements for those residents living in social housing who are entitled to it whereas the Partner Districts are able to use a different budget to pay for improvements.

Following a question regarding the CHIA agreement the Panel was informed that the original agreement was for three years with an option to extend by a year. At the current time the partner organisations were looking to extend the shared service by two years. Members noted the benefits of the shared service including: saving costs on accommodation, staff and equipment; operational resilience and economies of scale with regards to procurement.

The Panel was concerned with the decrease in Occupational Therapy referrals however Members were informed that this could be a result of a shortage of Occupational Therapists. The service had a problem with regards to recruitment and retention of staff however the problem was out of the Council's controls as Occupational Therapists were employed by the County Council.

In response to a question regarding accessing DFGs the Panel was advised that the Council provided the DFG and the County Council provided equipment. The Occupational Therapists assess people's needs and refer them to the CHIA if the claim is a DFG.

With regards to the customer satisfaction survey Members were informed that the main reason why the 11% was not satisfied was because of the workmanship. The Panel was assured that customer feedback would be used to drive service improvements.

Members were advised, in response to a query regarding future

builds, that policies reflecting the needs of the ageing population had been included within the Local Plan. The Panel was informed that meant in new developments there would be safer walking routes, elderly people's housing would be appropriately located and good public transport links. At Alconbury there would potentially be 400 homes for elderly people built.

**54. HUNTINGDONSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL UPDATE 2014/15**

With the aid of a report by the Head of Community Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) Annual Update 2014/15 was presented to the Panel. The Head of Community Services apologised for the delay in presenting the report however assured Members that the following year's report would be presented in a timely manner.

The Panel was informed that the Council had reduced its financial input into HCSP from £33,613 to £21,074 and this was as a result of the Chairmanship transferring over to the Police Constabulary. The HCSP had received £24,225 in funding from the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner for the year 2014/15 which the HCSP had spent on projects linked to its priority 'Victims and Vulnerabilities'.

In regards to the crime statistics Members noted that crime in the District had fallen which was in line with the fall in the national trends however violent crime in the District increased. In addition the Panel had been advised that the ward of Huntingdon North had seen the highest repeat victimisation.

Following a question regarding an increase in weapons and sexual offences and the perpetrators countries of origin the Panel were advised that there was no data which confirmed that there was a link between the an increase in those offences and an increase in immigration.

Members noted that Pub Watch in St Ives was having anti-social behavioural problems and they felt that the Police was not supporting them. The Head of Community Services informed the Panel that he had not received any reports of Pub Watch's problems but assured Members that Chief Inspector Laura Hunt had a good working relationship with the Pub Watch schemes.

The Panel discussed the use of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Huntingdon and whether it would be useful to introduce a PSPO in St Ives and St Neots. However Members noted that what was needed is the enforcement of current legislation and not the introduction of new legislation.

The Breakfast Club for EU residents living in Huntingdon North Ward had ceased running as a result of a lack of volunteers. The Panel expressed concern that the Breakfast Club put off attendance of residents from non-EU countries. Members recognised that the project did help reduce the crime rate in Huntingdon North.

Members were advised that the Executive Councillor for Strategic

Economic Development and Legal and the Head of Community Services meet with Chief Inspector Laura Hunt bimonthly for regular updates. The Panel expressed their desire to invite Chief Inspector Laura Hunt to a future meeting of the Panel to discuss the crime statistics contained within the report.

**55. WORKPLAN STUDIES**

The Panel received and noted a report (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which contained details of studies being undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels for Economic Well-Being and Environment Well-Being.

**56. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROGRESS**

With the aid of a report by the Democratic Services Team (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel reviewed the progress of its activities since the last meeting. In addition Members had the opportunity to discuss issues arising from the Decision Digest (circulated separately).

The Panel noted that the Chairman had met the new Chief Executive Officer of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, Lance McCarthy and that Members would be meeting him when Hinchingsbrooke Hospital attend a future meeting of the Panel.

Members had been informed that the Cabinet have accepted all the recommendations of the Affordable Housing Working Group and that a formal report would be presented to the Panel at the meeting in January 2016.

Chairman



**NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS INCLUDING THOSE TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE**

**Prepared by** Councillor J D Ablewhite  
**Date of Publication:** 23 December 2015  
**For Period:** 1 January 2016 to 30 April 2016

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

|                          |  |  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Councillor J D Ablewhite | - Executive Leader of the Council                              | 3 Pettis Road<br>St. Ives<br>Huntingdon PE27 6SR<br><br>Tel: 01480 466941 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Jason.Ablewhite@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Jason.Ablewhite@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a> |
| Councillor R C Carter    | - Executive Councillor for Operations & Environment            | 5 The Paddock<br>Bluntisham<br>Huntingdon PE28 3NR<br><br>Tel: 07986 325637 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Robin.Carter@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Robin.Carter@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>     |
| Councillor S Cawley      | - Executive Councillor for Organisational Change & Development | 6 Levers Water<br>Huntingdon PE29 6TH<br><br>Tel: 01480 435188 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Stephen.Cawley@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Stephen.Cawley@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>              |
| Councillor D B Dew       | - Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning & Housing        | 4 Weir Road<br>Hemingford Grey<br>Huntingdon PE28 9EH<br><br>Tel: 01480 469814 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Douglas.Dew@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Douglas.Dew@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>    |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Councillor J A Gray - Executive Councillor for Resources   | Vine Cottage<br>2 Station Row<br>Catworth<br>Huntingdon PE28 0PE<br><br>Tel: 01480 861941 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Jonathan.Gray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Jonathan.Gray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a> |
| Councillor R Harrison - Executive Councillor for Strategic Economic Development & Legal                  | 55 Bushmead Road<br>Eaton Socon<br>St Neots<br>PE19 8GC<br><br>Tel: 01480 406664 Email: <a href="mailto:Roger.Harrison@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Roger.Harrison@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>         |
| Councillor R Howe - Deputy Executive Leader of the Council with responsibility for Commercial Activities | The Old Barn<br>High Street<br>Upwood<br>Huntingdon PE26 2QE<br><br>Tel: 01487 814393 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Robin.Howe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Robin.Howe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a>           |
| Councillor D M Tysoe - Executive Councillor for Customer Services  | Grove Cottage<br>Maltings Lane<br>Ellington<br>Huntingdon PE28 OAA<br><br>Tel: 01480 388310 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Darren.Tysoe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk">Darren.Tysoe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk</a> |

10

Notice is hereby given of:

- Key decisions that will be taken by the Cabinet (or other decision maker)
- Confidential or exempt executive decisions that will be taken in a meeting from which the public will be excluded (for whole or part).

A notice/agenda together with reports and supporting documents for each meeting will be published at least five working days before the date of the meeting. In order to enquire about the availability of documents and subject to any restrictions on their disclosure, copies may be requested by contacting the Democratic Services Team on 01480 388169 or E-mail [Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk). Agendas may be accessed electronically at [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk).

Formal notice is hereby given under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that, where indicated part of the meetings listed in this notice will be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain confidential or exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. See the relevant paragraphs below.

Any person who wishes to make representations to the decision maker about a decision which is to be made or wishes to object to an item being considered in private may do so by emailing [Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk) or by contacting the Democratic Services Team. If representations are received at least eight working days before the date of the meeting, they will be published with the agenda together with a statement of the District Council's response. Any representations received after this time will be verbally reported and considered at the meeting.

**Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) (Reason for the report to be considered in private)**

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the Financial and Business Affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations that are arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of or office holders under the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the Authority proposes:-
  - (a) To give under any announcement a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
  - (b) To make an Order or Direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Huntingdonshire District Council  
 Pathfinder House  
 St Mary's Street  
 Huntingdon PE29 3TN.

- Notes:- (i) Additions changes from the previous Forward Plan are annotated \*\*\*  
 (ii) Part II confidential items which will be considered in private are annotated ## and shown in italic.

| → Subject/Matter for Decision   | Decision/ recommendation to be made by | Date decision to be taken | Documents Available | How relevant Officer can be contacted  | Reasons for the report to be considered in private | Relevant Executive Councillor | Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel |
|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Voluntary Sector Grant Funding 2016/17 to 2019/2020 ***                 | Cabinet                                | 21 Jan 2016               |                     | Chris Stopford, Head of Community Services<br>Tel No. 01480 388280 email:<br>Chris.Stopford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk     |  | R Harrison                    | Communities and Customers          |
| Future Service Provision ## ***   | Cabinet                                | 21 Jan 2016               |                     | Adrian Dobbyne, Corporate Team Manager<br>Tel No. 01480 388100 email:<br>Adrian.Dobbyne@huntingdonshire.gov.uk         | Paragraphs 1 - 4                                   | S Cawley                      | Finance and Performance            |
| Oxmoor Action Plan for Open Space - Treatment of Section 106 Monies *** | Cabinet                                | 21 Jan 2016               |                     | Alistair Merrick, Interim Head of Operations<br>Tel No. 01480 388635 email:<br>Alistair.Merrick@huntingdonshire.gov.uk |  | D Dew                         | Finance and Performance            |

| Subject/Matter for Decision   | Decision/ recommendation to be made by | Date decision to be taken | Documents Available | How relevant Officer can be contacted  | Reasons for the report to be considered in private | Relevant Executive Councillor | Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel |
|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Open Spaces Water Safety Policy ***   | Cabinet                                | 21 Jan 2016               |                     | Alistair Merrick, Interim Head of Operations<br>Tel No. 01480 388635 email:<br>Alistair.Merrick@huntingdonshire.gov.uk |  | R Carter                      | Economy and Growth                 |
| Street Cleansing - Service Specification ***  | Cabinet                                | 21 Jan 2016               |                     | Alistair Merrick, Interim Head of Operations<br>Tel No. 01480 388635 email:<br>Alistair.Merrick@huntingdonshire.gov.uk |  | R Carter                      | Economy and Growth                 |
| Earith, Sawtry and Stilton Needs Analysis of Open Spaces Play Facilities ***                                | Cabinet                                | 21 Jan 2016               |                     | Alistair Merrick, Interim Head of Operations<br>Tel No. 01480 388635 email:<br>Alistair.Merrick@huntingdonshire.gov.uk |  | R Carter                      | Economy and Growth                 |
| Approval of Final 2016/17 Revenue and Capital Budgets and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2020/21 | Cabinet                                | 11 Feb 2016               |                     | Clive Mason, Head of Resources Tel No. 01480 388157 email:<br>Clive.Mason@huntingdonshire.gov.uk                       |  | J Gray                        | Finance and Performance            |
| Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17  | Cabinet                                | 11 Feb 2016               |                     | Clive Mason, Head of Resources Tel No. 01480 388157 email:<br>Clive.Mason@huntingdonshire.gov.uk                       |  | J Gray                        | Finance and Performance            |
| One Leisure Strategic Plan ***  | Cabinet                                | 17 Mar 2016               |                     | Ms Jayne Wisely, Head of Leisure and Health Tel No. 01480 388049 email:Jayne.Wisely@huntingdonshire.gov.uk             |  | R Howe                        | Communities and Customers          |
| Shared Services Governance ***  | Cabinet                                | 17 Mar 2016               |                     | Mrs Joanne Lancaster, Managing Director<br>Tel No. 01480 388001 email:<br>Joanne.Lancaster@huntingdonshire.gov.uk      |  | S Cawley                      | Finance and Performance            |

| Subject/Matter for Decision                                    | Decision/ recommendation to be made by | Date decision to be taken | Documents Available | How relevant Officer can be contacted   | Reasons for the report to be considered in private | Relevant Executive Councillor | Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel |
|--|--|---------------------------|---------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sports Facilities Strategy for Huntingdonshire 2016 - 2021 *** | Cabinet                                | 17 Mar 2016               |                     | Ms Jayne Wisely, Head of Leisure and Health Tel No. 01480 388049 email: Jayne.Wisely@huntingdonshire.gov.uk |  | R Howe                        | Communities and Customers          |

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**Public**  
**Key Decision - No**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership 2014 -15 Review

**Meeting/Date:** Overview & Scrutiny (Social Well-Being) Panel, 1st December 2015  
Overview & Scrutiny (Communities and Customers), 5th January 2016

**Executive Portfolio:** Councillor R Harrison

**Report by:** Head of Community

**Ward(s) affected:** All Wards

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### **Executive Summary:**

- The purpose of this report is to provide a summary for Members of the activities and outcomes of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership in the year 2014 – 15. Details of the costs associated with the District Council supporting the activities of the Community Safety Partnership, and how the new Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 powers have been utilised.

### **Recommendation:**

- The Panel Members are requested to use the content of this report to inform their discussion with Chief Inspector Laura Hunt.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) was set up in response to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and aims to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the district; through the close partnership-working with a wide range of organisations. The partnership is administered and supported by the HDC Community Safety Team. Forming the Partnership are representatives from the six statutory organisations, these being Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG and the Probation Service as well as invited organisations such as Luminus Homes and Link to Change.
- 1.2 Traditionally, funding awarded to the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) by the Home Office was in the form of the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) which had been used to contribute towards a number of different initiatives put in place to address the agreed priorities. For the third consecutive year, the funding was awarded to the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner (P&CC) to allocate and in April 2014, the Partnership received £24,225. The grant award was a clear recognition by the P&CC that the Partnership had achieved what they had set out to do at the start of the previous 12 months.
- 1.3 The Partnership is required to allocate the funding in line with their priorities. The priorities form part of a three year annually refreshed Community Safety Plan of which 2014 – 15 was the first year of this plan. For the three years (2014 – 17), the Partnership agreed to focus on ‘Victims and Vulnerabilities’. The Strategic Assessments commissioned in 2014 – 15 focused on these priority areas to enable the Partnership to put a response in place to the reality of these issues locally. An example of some of the positive action taken by the Partnership in response to the priorities is:

| <b>Project</b>   | <b>Link to 2014 – 17 Priority</b> | <b>Amount (£)</b> | <b>Associated Outcomes</b>  |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Officer time in relation to Dodgems Project (Intensive work with 10 identified males who are at risk of becoming involved in or are already involved with the Criminal Justice System as well as being at risk of Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET)). | Prevention and intervention       | 7,500             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breaks the cycle of offending that in turn reduces the strain on Police, District Council, CPS, YOS and prison services;</li> <li>• Reduces repeat victimisation;</li> <li>• Addresses long term issues such as mental ill health;</li> <li>• Improves educational attainment/ employment</li> </ul> |

|  |  |       |  |
|--|--|-------|--|
| Art Mind Therapy Project (working with identified children and young people who are suffering post-traumatic stress leading to them becoming involved in crime, disorder or ASB).  | Project receives referrals in relation to victims and perpetrators of Child Sexual Exploitation. | 8,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports the most vulnerable;</li> <li>• Provides a quick response to a long term issue;</li> <li>• Reduces the strain on Police, District Council, GPs, A&amp;E</li> <li>• Enables an individual to move on in their life;</li> </ul>                        |
| Insurance for Pubwatch Schemes (Covering the areas of St Ives and Huntingdon where historically alcohol related disorder has been of significant concern. The Pubwatch Schemes ban individuals from their premises who are having a negative impact on the night time economy as a result of their behaviour). | Supporting communities to have a zero tolerance to offending behaviour.                          | 577   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributing to the reduction in the number of incidents of violence against the person;</li> <li>• Reduce requirement for the Police to resource the night time economy;</li> <li>• Fewer people attending A&amp;E with alcohol related injuries;</li> </ul> |
| Fuel Tank Alarm (Requested by Cambridgeshire Constabulary to tackle diesel thefts in the rural areas of the District).   | Supporting vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour.  | 265   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in the number of thefts;</li> <li>• Reduce the strain on Police resource;</li> <li>• Protects those living in rural areas of the District</li> </ul>  |
| Bobby Scheme – Support the Bobby Scheme to respond to victims of crime and domestic abuse by putting in place, in the victim's home, preventative and repeat victim measures.  | Supporting the most vulnerable members of our communities.                                       | 3,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces repeat victimisation;</li> <li>• Reduces the strain on Police and support agencies;</li> <li>• Protects those living in rural areas of the District</li> </ul>  |
| Remote access IP cameras – CCTV camera that can be used by the Neighbourhood Policing Teams to gather evidence in relation to reported issues of anti-social behaviour.  | Supporting vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour.  | 750   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protects the most vulnerable members of our communities;</li> <li>• Supports the prosecution process ensuring better outcomes for the victim;</li> <li>• Addresses repeat victimisation;</li> </ul>   |

|  |   |        |  |
|--|---|--------|--|
| External trainers appointed to provide a one day training course to frontline professionals in relation to the new tools and powers available under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014.  | To support the overarching theme of Victims and Vulnerabilities                     | 750    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficient use of the legislation available;</li> <li>• Targets repeat offenders;</li> <li>• Provides reassurance for our communities that ASB will not be tolerated;</li> <li>• Reduces calls for service to the District Council and Police</li> </ul> |
| Provision of a Breakfast Club for EU residents living in Huntingdon North Ward. A facility where residents can access advice and support in relation to drugs, alcohol, housing and benefits. A pilot project to try and break the cycle of early morning alcohol consumption. | Disrupting human trafficking and supporting victims as well as a priority community | 3,383  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports victims and addresses perpetrators;</li> <li>• Community reassurance and integration;</li> <li>• Reduces calls for service to the Police and District Council</li> </ul>   |
| Total  |   | 24,225 |  |

1.5 The Partnership has recognised the need to carry out a piece of work over the next 12 months that accurately evaluates the return on investment in relation to the projects that they have commissioned.

1.6 Unlike previous years, the Chair of the Partnership was not required to attend a P&CC 'Star Chamber' but they did receive notification in March 2015 that they would be awarded grant funding for the amount of £22,900 for 2015 – 16 based on their previous year's performance.

## 2.0 Financial

2.1 The District Council currently provides both administrative and professional support to the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership as outlined in section 2.1 of this report. In the financial year 2014-15 this support is outlined below.

| Post   | Financial Year<br>2013 - 14 | Financial Year<br>2014 - 15 |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <p>Head of Community</p> <p>Responsibilities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance at 4 meetings per year</li> <li>• Designated Officer in relation to use of AS legislation</li> <li>• Meetings with Chief Inspector and Portfolio Holder x 3 per year</li> </ul>   | £16,511<br>(18.6% FTE)      | £3,923<br>(5% FTE)          |
| <p>Community Safety Team Leader</p> <p>Responsibilities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending 4 meetings/ year</li> <li>• Supporting the Chair and Vice Chair</li> <li>• Provide briefings for Partnership members</li> <li>• Agenda setting</li> <li>• Writing of 70% of reports that are presented to the Partnership</li> <li>• Action Plan writing</li> <li>• Writing and monitoring progress against the 3 year CS Plan</li> <li>• Creating and supporting working groups</li> <li>• Managing the Community Safety Fund</li> <li>• Completing financial returns to the P&amp;CC</li> <li>• Maintenance of Partnership web pages on HDC site</li> </ul> | £15,200<br>(40% FTE)        | £15,028<br>(40% FTE)        |
| <p>Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>Responsibilities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attending 4 meetings/ year</li> <li>• Distributing the minutes and agenda</li> <li>• Distributing relevant information by email to Partnership members as requested by the Chair and CS Team Leader</li> </ul>   | £402.00<br>(1.83% FTE)      | £623.00<br>(2.25% FTE)      |
| <p>Anti-Social Behaviour Case Worker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibilities included Progress actions as requested by the Partnership</li> <li>• Respond to the vulnerable victim agenda</li> <li>• Fulfil duties under relevant legislation</li> </ul>   | £1,300<br>(5% 0.8FTE)       | £1,300<br>(5% 0.8FTE)       |
| <p>Community Safety Administration Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibilities included: Submitting invoices to the Office of the P&amp;CC</li> </ul>  | £200<br>(1% FTE)            | £200<br>(1% FTE)            |
| Total  | £33,613                     | £21,074                     |

- 2.2 The costs differ considerably from year to year because in 2013 – 14, the Chair of the Partnership was a Head of Service employed by Huntingdonshire District Council. In 2014 – 15, the Chair was a senior Police Officer therefore reducing the contribution of time and resource made by the District Council.
- 2.2 It is important to recognise that a considerable proportion of the work carried out by the Community Safety Team Leader for the HCSP is also of benefit to HDC as result of the issues being a priority in the Huntingdonshire area. This helps avoid duplication and consistency for communities.
- 2.3 Other organisations have demonstrated their commitment to the Partnership in the form of the elected Chair being a senior Police Officer for Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the Vice Chair a Director for Luminus Homes.

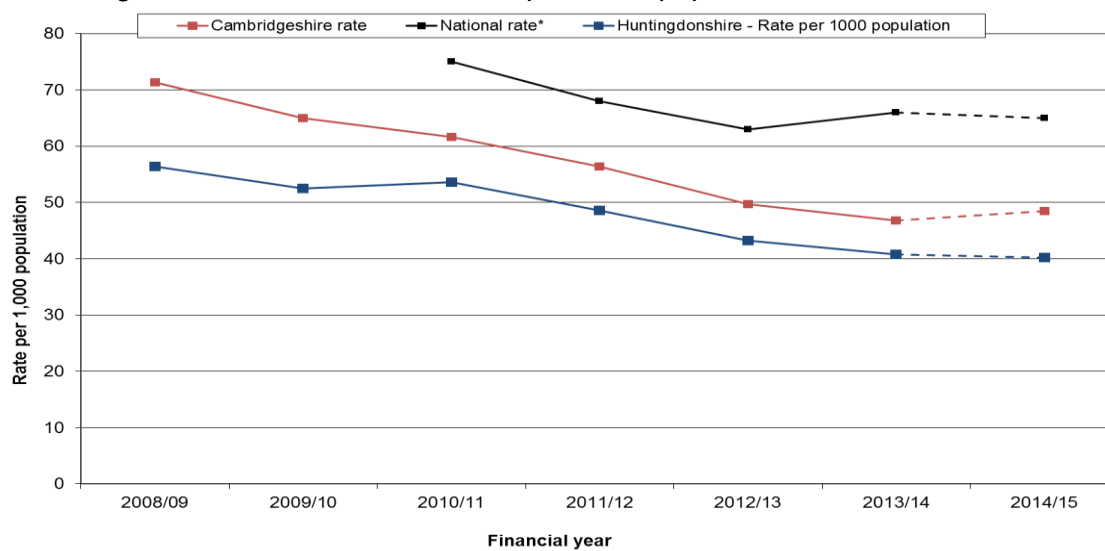
### **3.0 SUSTAINING A SERVICE IN 2015 – 16 AND BEYOND**

- 3.1 The Co-located Community Safety Team that was created in 2012 remains secure with two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) based part time at Pathfinder House along with the Community Safety Team Leader, ASB Case Worker and Community Safety Administrative Support Officer. Also joining this team on a co-located basis in early 2015 was the Outreach Worker for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 3.2 The ECINs Case Management system continues to be used by the District Council Community Safety Team as well as partner agencies to report, record and manage individuals who are involved with or victims of anti-social behaviour. Since its launch in 2013, the number of organisations actively using the system has increased which in turns improves information sharing as well as the way that each case is managed and successfully closed.
- 3.3 The P&CC has committed to funding ECINs for the District and City Councils until 2017 as the need for better sharing of information to target those who cause our communities most harm has been recognised.
- 3.4 The co-located District Council Community Safety Team provides scope and flexibility, suggesting that there may be opportunities to provide a response to ASB on behalf of other authorities across Cambridgeshire or housing providers who own stock within the district. The Partnership is investigating these opportunities further because of the recognition that there are 29 Registered Providers across the District all of whom provide a very different response to anti-social behaviour. The Partnership would like to implement a stream lined response to victims regardless of their tenure.
- 3.4.1 Further research will now be carried out to establish the demand for a commissioned service and proposals in relation to what the service would look like will then be considered by the Partnership.

## 4.0 PERFORMANCE 2014 - 15

4.1 At the April 2015 meeting of the Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership a presentation was received in relation to performance against a selection of crime types. In the long term since 2008/09 total police recorded crime has reduced by 25% in Huntingdonshire and by 27% in Cambridgeshire for the same period of time. There is a 1% reduction in the police recorded crime when compared to last year, however Cambridgeshire has seen an increase of 4% in police recorded crime for the same period of time.

Figure 1: Total Crime Trend, rate per 1,000 population



4.2 Nationally, the number of ASB incidents recorded by the police in the year ending September 2014 decreased by 10% compared with the previous year. There has been a remarkable reduction in ASB incidents (54.0%) in Huntingdonshire and (56.9%) in Cambridgeshire since 2007/08. A reduction of 3.6% was recorded in Huntingdonshire compared to last year.

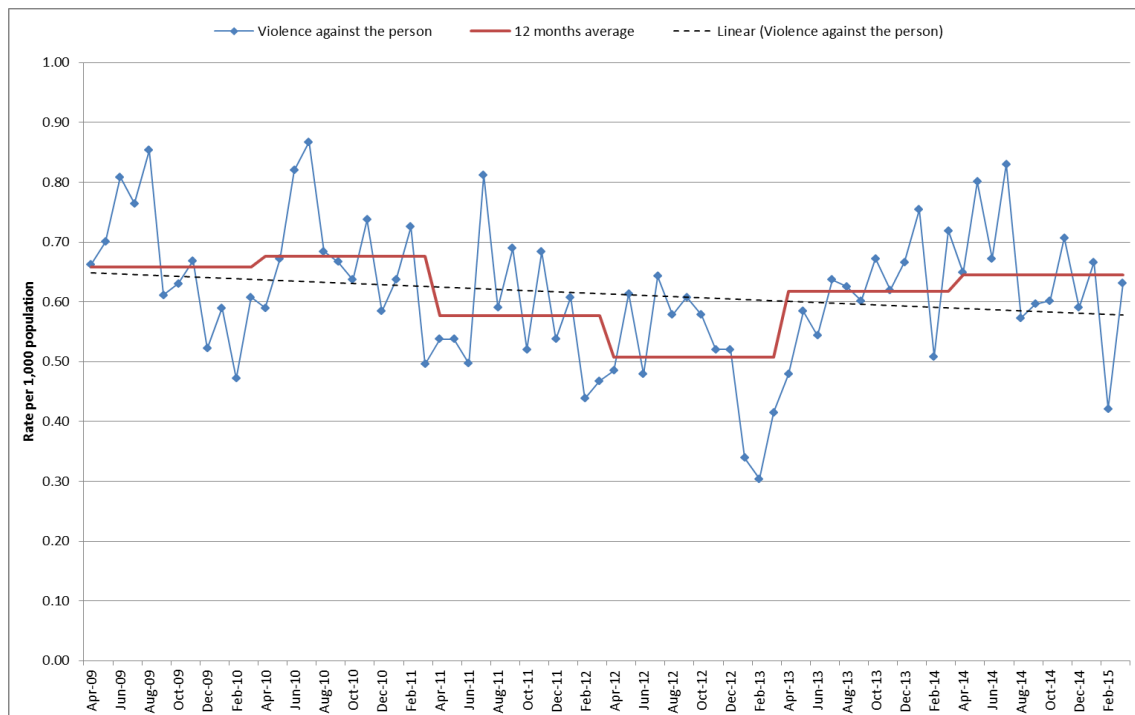
Table 1: shows a long term reduction in the volume of ASB in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire

|                            | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15* |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| <b>Huntingdonshire ASB</b> | 6,958   | 7,019   | 6,144   | 4,755   | 4,534   | 4,370    |
| Year on year reductions    | -23.9%  | 0.9%    | -12.5%  | -22.6%  | -4.6%   | -3.6%    |
| reduction compared 2007/08 | -26.8%  | -26.1%  | -35.3%  | -50.0%  | -52.3%  | -54.0%   |
| <b>Cambridgeshire ASB</b>  | 25,027  | 26,067  | 22,765  | 18,061  | 17,086  | 15,870   |
| year on year reduction     | -27.4%  | 4.2%    | -12.7%  | -20.7%  | -5.4%   | -7.1%    |
| reduction compared 2007/08 | -32.0%  | -29.2%  | -38.1%  | -50.9%  | -53.6%  | -56.9%   |

\*Two months projections are used

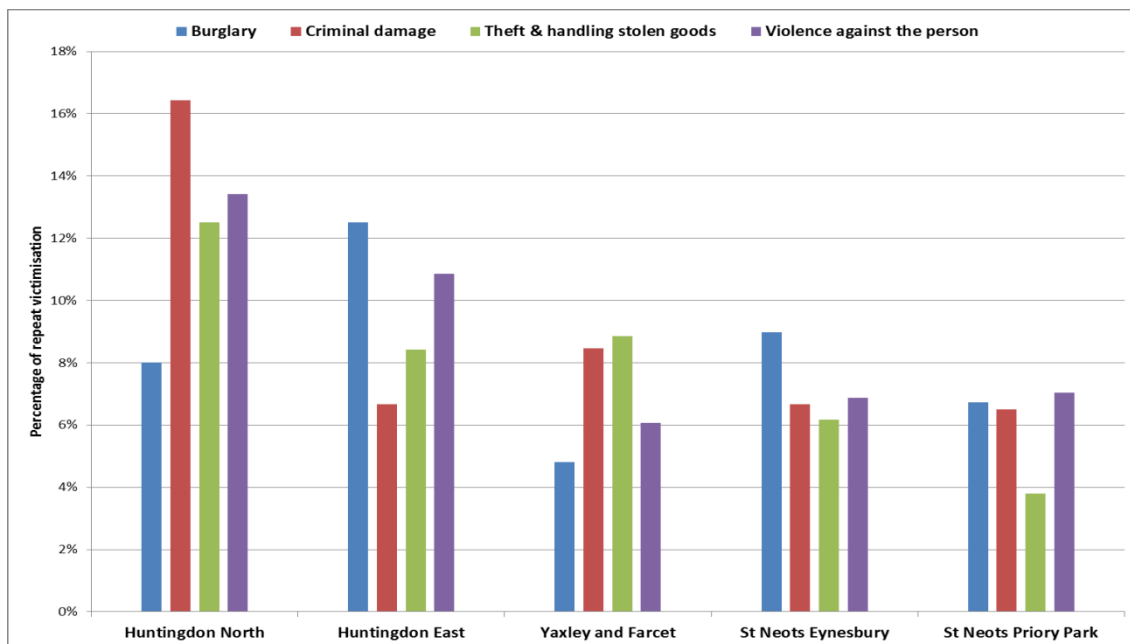
- 4.3 Looking at the data for year ending January 2015, dwelling burglary has reduced by 17.2% (80 offences) and vehicle crime reduced by 18.9% (154 offences). However, there is an increase by 60.6% (20 offences) in all robbery and an increase by 88.9% (24 offences) in personal robbery offences in particular. Possession of a weapon offences increased by 82.6% (19 offences) and hate crime offences increased by 35.5% (11 offences). Serious sexual offences, rape in particular, increased by 46.5% (20 offences).
- 4.4 The Partnership has had violence as a priority for a number of years, with a particular focus on alcohol related violence. There has been good overall improvement in this area. Data collected from Hinchingbrooke Accident and Emergency department for assaults presenting at the department has recorded, in the medium term, a 7% reduction in the past 2 years. Hinchingbrooke's data shows average yearly reductions for the past 3 years with peaks being more notable in summer months.

Figure 2: Long term trend for the rate per 1,000 population of (VAP) in Huntingdonshire



- 4.5 A research project on Repeat Victimization completed by the Cambridgeshire Research Group revealed that Huntingdon North Ward accounted for 13% of the total repeat victimisation in Huntingdonshire. The ward also has the highest recorded rate of repeat victimisation at 47.3 per 1,000 population, compared to the Huntingdonshire district rate of 13.9 per 1,000 population. Huntingdon North Ward has the highest proportion of repeat victims (12%) who have been victimised between 2 and 3 times and also recorded the highest volume of repeat victims (95%) who have been victimised four or more times in three years.

Figure 3: First five wards where higher repeat victimisation is recorded with crime type



4.6 The Partnership took the opportunity at this point to consider the emerging issues as well as their performance over the previous 12 months.

## 5.0 LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

5.1 The 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 saw the commencement of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act. There are four parts to the Act that replace 19 powers that were previously available to address anti-social behaviour; this included the Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO).

5.2 The Partnership commissioned an external provider to deliver training on the new legislation to frontline professionals all of whom would be required to utilise the tools and powers. The training was attended by 30 officers representing different services and organisations.

5.3 The Partnership commenced the process for implementing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) covering Huntingdon Town Centre. The Order was required in response to ongoing issues with street drinkers who significantly effecting the day time economy and those living in and visiting the town. A report was submitted to the Licensing and Protection Panel that requested the following prohibitions:

- the consumption of alcohol or possession of an open container of alcohol in the Designated Area; and
- acting in a manner that causes alarm, harassment or distress as a result of consuming alcohol.

5.3.1 The Order was approved with an implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.



## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The landscape for Community Safety continues to change. Huntingdonshire District Council and a number of other organisations have a responsibility to respond to complaints of ASB and significant progress has been made in Huntingdonshire to address ASB in recent years. The creation of a multi-disciplinary team provided a skilled resource that can continue to develop and market the service with a view to attracting funding in the future.
- 6.2 The Partnership has continued to use their resources effectively to tackle issues of crime, disorder and ASB resulting once again in a reduction of total crime compared to the same time last year. This is not an opportunity for the Partnership to be complacent; they must focus their efforts in to emerging issues and continue their proactive way of working as opposed to being reactive.
- 6.3 HCSP actively reviews the crime figures throughout the year and tailors its approach to commissioning tactical responses as far as possible. However, the partnership's focus remains on prevention rather than amelioration.
- 6.4 The HCSP has continued to achieve year on year reductions in crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour since its formation in 1998.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Huntingdonshire Community Safety Plan 2014 – 17, HDC May 2014  
Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership Spending Plan – Community Safety Fund – January 2015  
Huntingdonshire Strategic Assessment April 2015

## **CONTACT OFFICERS**

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**Public**  
**Key Decision - Yes**  
\* Delete as applicable

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Voluntary Sector Grant Funding 2016/17 – 2019/20

**Meeting/Date:** Overview & Scrutiny (Communities & Customers) – 5th  
January 2016  
Cabinet – 21st January 2016

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Councillor for Strategic Economic Development  
and Legal - Councillor Roger Harrison

**Report by:** Head of Community – Chris Stopford

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

The Council's grant funding agreements for the voluntary sector run until the 31st March 2016, and therefore the Council needs to consider how, or if, it wishes to continue to grant fund the voluntary sector over the four year term of the new medium term financial strategy.

### **Recommendation(s):**

1. That Members of Overview and Scrutiny provide comments and a preferred option for the funding for the voluntary sector grants between 2016/17 and 2019/20, as set out in Section 3.1,
2. That Members of Cabinet, endorse and agree the proposed funding recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny for the voluntary sector grants between 2016/17 and 2019/20, as set out in Section 3.1, such that the budget impact can be included within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy
3. That Members of Overview and Scrutiny provide comments and a preferred option for taking forward the funding process into 2016/17, as set out in Section 3.2
4. That Members of Cabinet, endorse and agree the recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny for the funding process to be applied to the voluntary sector grants between 2016/17 and 2019/20.

## 1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT/PURPOSE?

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Grants Panel in November 2012, the Executive Councillor for Strategic Economic Development and Legal along with the Executive Councillor for Resources determined a three year funding arrangement with the voluntary sector. These funding arrangements remain in place until the 31st March 2016
- 1.2 This report seeks views of Overview and Scrutiny, and Cabinet to inform the future funding arrangements

## 2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

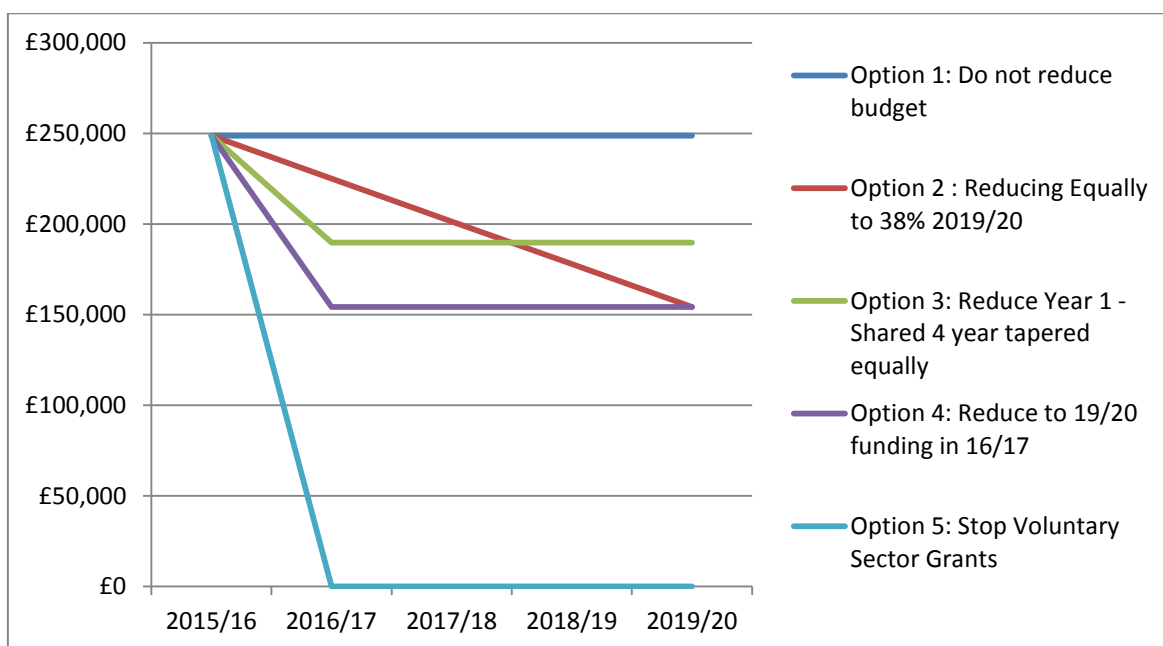
- 2.1 For the last three years the Council has operated a Voluntary Sector Grant fund. In 2015/16, the budget for the grants was £248,700, as detailed below:

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Rural Cambridgeshire Citizens Advice Bureau<br>(£9,700 is retained to cover rental costs for the accommodation in St Neots, a portacabin rented by HDC on their behalf) | £115,000               |
| Disability Information Services Huntingdonshire   | £19,000                |
| Hunts Forum for Voluntary Organisations   | £38,000                |
| Care Network  | £10,000                |
| Huntingdon Volunteer Centres  | £37,000                |
| Huntingdon Shopmobility<br>(£12,000 is retained to cover rental costs for the accommodation in Huntingdon, a portacabin rented by HDC on their behalf)                  | £29,700                |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b><u>£248,700</u></b> |

## 3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ANALYSIS

### 3.1 Financial Value of Funding

- 3.1.1 The funding for the Voluntary Sector Grant budget allocation should not be considered to be outside of the main Council revenue funding for the Council and therefore should progressively follow the medium term financial strategy.
- 3.1.2 The Councils current financial objective to reduce all budgets by around 38% by March 2020 would result in an overall reduction of the voluntary sector budget. Such a reduction would be in accordance with *Cabinet Office, The Compact – The Coalition Government and civil society organisations working effectively in partnership for the benefit of communities and citizens in England, December 2010* ('The COMPACT') guidelines which clearly state that 'voluntary sector organisations in receipt of public finances should not be treated disproportionately to those services directly provided by statutory authorities'.
- 3.1.3 With the current 3 year funding programmes coming to an end on 31st March 2016 and the need to make substantial savings it is prudent for the Council to review its procedures, criteria and priorities for future support. The graph below makes suggestions as to how the overall budget, and the profile of the budget could be considered across a four year funding agreement. Such an agreement provides stability of funding for the voluntary sector, whilst allowing the Council to accurately consider the impact of the funding on its overall budget position.



- Option 1: making no change to the current level of funding allocated by the Council to the voluntary sector
- Option 2: reducing the budget over the term of the current medium term financial strategy (MTFS), such that in year 4 the reduction of 38% is achieved.
- Option 3: reducing the budget in year 1, but then providing an equal annual payment equivalent to the same total amount of spend as option 2
- Option 4: reducing the budget to the value of the MTFS in year 4 with immediate effect.
- Option 5: Stopping funding the Voluntary Sector with immediate effect

3.1.4 This information can be converted to financial values to show the impact of the above options

|                            | Option 1:<br>Do not<br>reduce by<br>38% | Option 2 :<br>Reducing<br>Equally to<br>38% 19/20 | Option 3:<br>Reduce<br>Year 1 -<br>Shared 4<br>year tapered<br>equally | Option 4:<br>Reduce to<br>19/20<br>funding in<br>16/17 | Option 5:<br>Stop<br>Voluntary<br>Sector<br>Grants |
|----------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|
| 2015/16                    | £248,700                                | £248,700  | £248,700   | £248,700   | £248,700   |
| 2016/17                    | £248,700                                | £225,074  | £189,633   | £154,194   | £0   |
| 2017/18                    | £248,700                                | £201,447  | £189,633   | £154,194   | £0   |
| 2018/19                    | £248,700                                | £177,821  | £189,633   | £154,194   | £0   |
| 2019/20                    | £248,700                                | £154,194  | £189,633   | £154,194   | £0   |
| 4 year budget<br>@ 2015/16 | £994,800                                | £994,800  | £994,800   | £994,800   | £994,800   |
| New 4 Year<br>budget       | £994,800                                | £758,535  | £758,532   | £616,776   | £0   |
| <b>Saving</b>              | <b>£0</b>                               | <b>£236,265</b>                                   | <b>£236,268</b>  | <b>£378,024</b>  | <b>£994,800</b>                                    |
| MTFS Saving                | 0%                                      | 24%   | 24%  | 38%  | 100%   |
| 2015/16 cf<br>2019/20      | 0%                                      | 38%   | 24%  | 38%  |  |

### 3.1.5 Risk Analysis

#### 3.1.5.1 Option 1

The Council could treat the voluntary sector grants budget of £248,700 as a protected budget, and not reduce the budget from the 2015/16 budget commitment.

In doing so, it would place increased pressure on other Council budgets in order to meet the current medium term financial strategy, and its 'plan on a page'. However, this option would be considered to be in compliance with the principles of the COMPACT.

#### 3.1.5.2 Option 2

This option would be considered to be in compliance with the principles of the COMPACT, in that the budget reduction is mirroring that of the Council's overall medium term financial strategy, and 'plan on a page'.

The budget in 2019/20 is reduced to a level where any future funding discussions from 2019/20 will start at the same financial value, without exposing the sector to a 'cliff edge' reduction in funding between 2019/20 and 2020/21. The option also allows the sector time to react to the reduction in funding as the year 1 funding (2016/17) is not reduced to the same extent as options 3, 4 and 5.

Whilst reducing the 2019/20 budget by 38% based on the 2015/16 baseline budget, this option only delivers a four year budget saving of 24%

#### 3.1.5.3 Option 3

This option would be considered to be in compliance with the principles of the COMPACT, in that the budget reduction is mirroring that of the Council's overall medium term financial strategy, and 'plan on a page'.

The budget position between 2019/20 and 2020/21 could, however, be considered to present a funding 'cliff edge' to the sector with funding reducing by £35,439 before any future medium term financial strategy is applied. The option has a more significant impact on the sector in year 1 (2016/17) of the funding arrangement, and will need more significant activity within the sector to react to the reduction in funding.

Whilst reducing the 2019/20 budget by 38% based on the 2015/16 baseline budget, this option only delivers a four year budget saving of 24%

#### 3.1.5.4 Option 4

This option may be seen as placing increased pressure on the voluntary sector budget, that that being placed on the overall Council budgets, however, the Council continues to demonstrate that it supports the voluntary sector by continuing funding arrangements.

The budget in 2019/20 is reduced to a level where any future funding discussions will start at the same financial value, without exposing the sector to a 'cliff edge' reduction in funding between 2019/20 and 2020/21. This option would have a significant impact on the sector in year 1 (2016/17)

This option both reduces the 2019/20 budget by 38% based on the 2015/16 baseline budget, and delivers a full 38% saving on the four year voluntary sector funding budget

#### 3.1.5.5 Option 5

This option sees the end of voluntary sector funding by the Council with immediate effect. Clearly, this option maximises the revenue savings to the Council however would be considered not in compliance with the COMPACT.

This option also presents additional risks to the Council, consideration must be given to the impact on both the voluntary sector and the Council. The removal of funding may result in organisations stopping their relevant service provision within Huntingdonshire, or not take up options to occupy the Pathfinder House Customer Services Centre. The Star Chamber for Customer Services identifies an income of £11,000 from the creation of a multi-agency HUB by voluntary sector occupation of Pathfinder House. Additionally, the introduction of Universal Credit will place additional burdens on the Council which, the retention of voluntary sector support in Huntingdonshire, could be accommodated by the sector.

### 3.2 Options for allocation of funding

3.2.1 The Council also needs to determine how to allocate funding to the voluntary sector. The existing organisations, with the exception of Shopmobility, are all considered to have met the obligations of the current funding agreements. Shopmobility failed to meet the matched income target set for year 3 of the award and had the year 3 payments reduced accordingly.

3.2.2 The Council could:

Option A Continue to fund all the organisations that it currently funds, either at the same budget, or at a budget reduced in line with the decision on the voluntary sector MTFs above.

In making this decision, regard must be had to the financial viability of the organisations and the impact of reductions from other funding streams:

Disability Information Services Huntingdonshire - their income for the year 2014/15 was £51,462 of which HDC contributed 35%; any reduction in funding by HDC must be considered to have a significant impact on the funding for this organisation

Volunteer Centre Huntingdon – their income for the year 2014/15 was £63,781 of which HDC contributed 38% with a further 19% being from the County Council; any reduction in funding by HDC must be considered to have a significant impact on the funding for this organisation

Care Network received a small percentage of funding from the District Council, but receives 36% of their funding from the County

Council, and therefore their viability may be at risk from the County Council budget setting proposals

Option B To reduce the number of organisations being funded directly by HDC, and seek to engage with umbrella organisations that through their funding support others. It is suggested that, having regards to the Council's Corporate Plan, two strategic themes could be considered:

- The provision of independent advice and information; and
- Building the capacity of the voluntary sector to include the promotion of community and voluntary organisations, volunteering, and volunteering opportunities

The NAVCA<sup>1</sup> report *Change for good – Report of the Independent Commission on the future of local infrastructure, January 2015* made, amongst others, a recommendation that local government should 'act strategically to fund core infrastructure functions at the local level, to act as a multiplier, drawing in other resources and creating social capital'. The report continues to discuss the need for infrastructure bodies to act collaboratively for the benefit of their communities, and to be vigilant in avoiding duplication of others.

This funding option would stimulate this approach to the local voluntary sector, but working together through an umbrella organisation funding arrangement, all organisations will have to work closer in collaboration to the overall benefit of our local communities.

Option C To consider the option of developing a joint commissioning approach voluntary sector capacity building and volunteering infrastructure services at a District level with Cambridgeshire County Council.

The County Council are currently consulting on the future funding of Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Organisations. A copy of their latest information is included as Appendix 1 to this report. However, in summary the County Council currently spend £129,980 across the County and are looking to reduce this to £120,000. It is estimated that Huntingdonshire currently receives £18,857 of this funding

The key outcomes of the County Council funding being:

- To provide support, information, advice, training, mentoring, to the wider VCS on a range of issues, and
- To be a voice for the VCS

The options for the allocation of the proposed £120,000 include the development of 5 District wide agreements, on for each District, with the application of a fair funding formula. However, the funding

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<sup>1</sup> NAVCA, the **National Association for Voluntary and Community Action**, is the national membership body for local support and development organisations in England. It was previously called the National Association of Councils for Voluntary Service (NACVS). NAVCA is a strategic partner of the Department of Health and the Cabinet Office's Office for Civil Society



of ACRE for the provision of county wide rural development is distinctive and this will continue separately from the District wide agreements. This means that the total County Council funding for Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure could be c£95,000, and if split equally around £19,000 for Huntingdonshire. All this is subject to County Council budget approval processes.

Whilst the current timetables for commissioning these activities are not fully aligned with this of Huntingdonshire District Council, this option could be future progressed.

This option further supports the recommendations of the NAVCA Change for Good discussed with Option B above.

#### **4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

- 4.1 Comments of Overview & Scrutiny to be provided to Cabinet at their meeting on 21st January 2016

#### **5. KEY IMPACTS/RISKS? HOW WILL THEY BE ADDRESSED?**

- 5.1 The grant funding programme will be managed in accordance with 'Successful Commissioning Guide from the National Audit Office. This guide provides guidance on the commissioning, maintenance and decommissioning of grant arrangements with third sector organisations.

#### **6. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 6.1 Following the views of Overview & Scrutiny, the report will be updated and presented to Cabinet for further consideration. Information obtained will then be using in setting the voluntary sector budgets within the medium term financial strategy and will form part of the budget setting process at Council in February 2016.
- 6.2 Once a clear direction has been obtained, information regarding the funding for 2016/17 to 2019/20 will be provided to the voluntary sector. A 'tender process' will need to be followed to ensure that all organisations will have the opportunity to apply for the funding. The Council will ensure that it considers the best practice advice contained within the National Audit Office publication on 'successful commissioning' in determining and allocating funding.

#### **7. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN**

- 7.1 The grant funding to the third sector clearly links with the Council's Corporate Plan through the 'working with our communities' theme.

#### **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The six organisations currently funded through the Voluntary Sector Grants have provided feedback to the October meeting of Overview & Scrutiny (Social Well-being) on their activities over the last three years of the funding agreement.
- 8.2 Those organisations that currently receive voluntary sector grant funding, as detailed in 2.1 above, have been advised that they current funding

arrangement end on 31st March 2015. The organisations have also been made aware of the content of this report.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There is no legal impact at this time. However, should the Council act outside of the funding arrangements as outlined in the COMPACT then legal implications will need to be considered

## **10. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The Council's medium term financial strategy sets its budget objectives of reducing its expenditure by 38% over its four year term. This report presents to Members the options for reducing funding to the voluntary sector in line with the aspiration of the medium term financial strategy.

## **11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

*(Equalities, environment, ICT, etc.)*

- 11.1 Following recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny, and Cabinet the Council will need to complete an equality impact assessment and community impact assessment for any recommended reduction in funding, or changes to the funding principles.

## **12. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 12.1 The Council must consider the need to secure value for money in providing funding to the third sector, alongside the needs to the Council to ensure that any funding is affordable. This paper has provided options for determining the financial value of the funding over the term of the medium term financial strategy, and options for the allocation of the funding.

Recommendations:

1. That Members of Overview and Scrutiny provide comments and a preferred option for the funding for the voluntary sector grants between 2016/17 and 2019/20, as set out in Section 3.1,
2. That Members of Cabinet, endorse and agree the proposed funding recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny for the voluntary sector grants between 2016/17 and 2019/20, as set out in Section 3.1, such that the budget impact can be included within the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy
3. That Members of Overview and Scrutiny provide comments and a preferred option for taking forward the funding process into 2016/17, as set out in Section 3.2
4. That Members of Cabinet, endorse and agree the recommendation from Overview and Scrutiny for the funding process to be applied to the voluntary sector grants between 2016/17 and 2019/20

## **13. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1 - Cambridgeshire County Council's – Future Funding of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Infrastructure Organisations

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Cabinet Office, COMPACT

([https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/61169/The\\_20Compact.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61169/The_20Compact.pdf))

NAVCA, Change for Good

(<http://www.navca.org.uk/downloads/generate/3878>)

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

Chris Stopford, Head of Community

December 2015

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## **Draft Brief for the future funding of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Infrastructure Organisations**

*This document contains the information that was in the slide deck we went through at our meeting on Friday 27 November 2015. We have updated this with the feedback we received at the meeting and we have put in some additional information as requested.*

*We would now like to invite you to make any further comments to ensure that we can take account of this feedback as we consider the way forward.*

*Thank you again for your participation in this process.*

*Could you please return your response to us by Friday 8th January 2016.*

Email to [greg.wilson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:greg.wilson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Section One: Introduction**

Cambridgeshire County Council's (CCC) rationale for changing the approach to how it funds the VCS Infrastructure Organisations is:

- Ensuring that what is delivered meets the needs of CCC as defined by our recently agreed Stronger Together, Strategy for Building Resilient Communities;
- Seeing if there is a way of contracting with the VCS Infrastructure Organisations that maximises economies of scale, that relates more to 'place'<sup>1</sup> and helps build on the co-operation and the complementary offer of this network of organisations;
- Reducing the number of contracts CCC has with Infrastructure organisations across the county.

We are taking the opportunity to engage with the Infrastructure organisations to shape the future approach and to understand and respond to the strengths and weaknesses they experience when working with the county council

### **Current Funding to Infrastructure Organisations**

Cambridgeshire County Council currently funds VCS infrastructure organisations as follows:

| <b>Current Grant arrangement</b>   | <b>£</b> |
|--|----------|
| General Community and Voluntary Sector infrastructure (CVS) - £7,000 per district for the three CVS's. This is a partnership | £35,000  |

<sup>1</sup> Place can be defined as a practical area where communities can plan and organise action and activity

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| agreement with the Clinical Commissioning Group, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Fenland District Council                    |                 |
| Volunteering Infrastructure - split in variable amounts between the four Cambridgeshire volunteer centres and Royston Volunteer Centre | £57,980         |
| Rural Development Infrastructure - to ACRE for general infrastructure support  | £35,000         |
| Parish Planning in Fenland - with match funding from Fenland District Council.   | £2,000          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>£129,980</b> |

Currently these are all one year contracts with Service Level Agreements.

Voluntary Sector providers have expressed a view that they would like to have longer contract periods, and feel a grant would be more appropriate than a contract.

The County Council is in the process of setting its budget for 2016/17. The current budget proposal for the future funding of the VCS Infrastructure organisations is for a budget of £120,000 p.a., a reduction of £9,980 from this area of work or 7.6%.

This budget proposal goes back to General Purposes Committee in January 2016 before being forward to full Council in February 2016. The proposal will ask that the budget of £120,000 p.a. is retained for VCS Infrastructure Organisations and that we enter into a 3 year funding agreement with the organisation(s) that are successful in receiving funding through the revised funding mechanism that is currently under consultation.

It is the responsibility of full Council to set the budget for the County Council when it meets in February 2016.

### **Overall Aims of our support to the VCS Infrastructure Organisations**

- To enable the VCS Infrastructure organisations to support the development and transformation of the VCS to meet the current and the future needs and aspirations of the sector;
- To nurture a sector that can support vulnerable adults, children and families to enable them to remain well and to live independently;
- To support the sector to enable social action/change that creates vibrant communities;
- To support the sector to make a positive contribution to the county's economic prosperity, the environment and the overall health and wellbeing of its communities;
- To be a voice for the sector in shaping public policy and strategy ensuring that the county's community offering is recognised and valued;
- To support the Council to deliver Stronger Together our Strategy for Building Resilient Communities.

## Underpinning Values of our contract with the VCS Infrastructure Organisations

- To be inclusive
- To demonstrate a commitment to equality of opportunity
- To ensure people are kept safe from harm
- To take asset-based approach to working with communities

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| <b>Do you have any comments on Section One?</b> |
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|                           |
|---------------------------|
| <b>For Clarification:</b> |
|---------------------------|

|                  |
|------------------|
| <b>Feedback:</b> |
|------------------|

## Section Two: Outcomes required of the Infrastructure Organisations through the contract with CCC

A) *To provide support, information, advice, training, mentoring, to the wider VCS on a range of issues such as:*

- Running an effective organisation – financial management & controls, business planning, marketing & promotion, governance
- Building a sustainable organisation – broadening the income base, generating new income streams, effective in using time, skills and experience as resources
- Being a good employer, staff policies and practice;
- Effective engagement and management of volunteers;
- Developing volunteering in Cambridgeshire;
- Developing networks to support community action and engagement;
- Board recruitment, training and development, including support for a board's role in strategic planning to ensure organisational sustainability;
- Harnessing links to the business community, working collaboratively with the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation to maximise their business networks;

- Enabling organisations across the sector to be 'tender ready';
- Advice on how to set up an organisation / network and appropriate types of formal / informal organisational models;
- Advice on how to carry out community/neighbourhood planning, community asset transfer, community right to buy;
- Ability to support organisations to know how to include vulnerable people within their workforce and/or volunteer base;
- Ability to support organisations to train their workforce and volunteer base to be able to use asset based approaches to working with and in their communities, recognising that assets include our people, our spaces, our experience and our knowledge;
- Ability to promote and celebrate volunteering.

It is recognised that some of these services will be offered directly and others will be signposted to others for support.

*B) To be a voice for the VCS*

- To ensure the voice of the VCS is heard in shaping public policy and strategy recognising the role the sector plays in developing innovative practice and its ability to take risks and to pilot new approaches;
- To be an advocate for and a challenger of the Stronger Together the County Council's Strategy for Building Community Resilience, and other key strategies such as Transforming Lives (a strategy to transform the way adults and older people's services are delivered)
- To be a representative voice for the sector with demonstrable mechanisms to deliver this including effective two-way communication between the infrastructure organisation(s) and the wider sector

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| <b>Do you have any comments on Section Two?</b> |
| <b>For Clarification:</b>                       |
| <b>Feedback:</b>                                |



### **Section Three: Requirements of the County Council in its relationship with the VCS Infrastructure organisations**

*The County Council will undertake to*

- Promote and celebrate volunteering and the contribution of the VCS to the life of the county;
- Develop and deliver a consistent approach to how we deal with the VCS
- Consider the promotion of county champions for the VCS;
- Recognise that the VCS, including the infrastructure organisations, require support for research and development of new innovative practice;
- Assist with liaison with District, City and Parish Councils;
- Assist with harnessing business support;
- Recognise that we need to draw the VCS into our policy and strategy development from the outset.

#### **Practice to be displayed by the successful Infrastructure Organisation(s)**

- To be progressive and entrepreneurial in its vision and its practice (e.g. sharing economy, trading);
- Able to demonstrate its own effectiveness, sustainability, breadth of income base, good practice as an employer of staff and volunteers;
- Able to demonstrate leading edge practice that is recognised and acknowledged by others;
- Having an effective online presence with a depth of knowledge about the role of online tools and processes in furthering its aims and those of the wider sector;
- Able to show how it can empower and enable organisations to generate ideas, to harness resources and find new and imaginative ways of developing and delivering solutions to local needs;
- Ability to demonstrate that they are a learning organisation;
- Ability to know how to enable others to listen to their communities and to build local responses to help people, and groups, to find solutions to needs;
- Well networked in all sectors and with good knowledge and experience of regional and national examples of good practice;
- Ability to harness the support of local businesses (linking to the Community Foundation);
- Demonstrating a depth of understanding about online and offline communities and how this is reflected in how orgs operate (for themselves and others);
- Effective in partnership working, with a track record in collaboration and co-production;
- Aware of and engaging in new and emerging models of practice;
- Ability to provide challenge to organisations they support / nurture, able to mentor / support others through change.
- Ability to identify opportunities for productive partnership, broker relationships between different sectors to bring this to fruition.

Lead organisations would be expected to demonstrate how they are addressing or moving towards the practice described here. Partner organisations, who may be engaged to deliver specific aspects of the brief, would be expected to demonstrate good practice in relation to their specific areas of delivery.

The determination of key performance indicators, and the mechanisms and frequency measurement against these indicators, would be worked through with the successful organisations following the award of the grant(s).

It is recognised that the CCC grant will only contribute to aspects of that the successful infrastructure organisation(s) will be delivering. The practice above is intended to be a descriptor of the whole organisation, its ethos, the way it delivers its services and the way it supports its staff and volunteers.

**Issues that need to be addressed in the agreements between the County Council and the Infrastructure organisations it supports in the future**

In an arrangement which as lead and partner organisations it needs to be clear where the responsibility lies for non-delivery. There needs to be clarity about where the risk is held.

It is important that the County Council is realistic in its expectation of organisations given the level of resources available for this work.

|   |
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| <b>Do you have any comments on Section Three?</b> |
| <b>For Clarification:</b>                         |
| <b>Feedback:</b>                                  |

**Section Four: Future Funding Proposal**

To tender a new 3 year grant (or contract?) for Voluntary Sector Infrastructure Services setting out how infrastructure organisations can support the delivery of the Council's Community Resilience Strategy, Stronger Together, through their support to the wider Voluntary and Community Sector.

**Options**

1. One countywide agreement with single lead organisation (with or without rural development included);

2. District wide agreements based on fair funding formula (with or without rural development included)
  - 5 agreements, one for each District
  - 4 agreements, where South Cambs and Cambridge City are combined;
3. A blend of 1. and 2. above where the county wide requirements are delivered through an agreed and complementary arrangement by each of the lead District/City infrastructure organisations.
4. In recognition that the county wide rural development remit provided by ACRE is distinctive, to continue to contract with ACRE separately with the expectation that ACRE works with the leads of either options 1. 2. or 3.

In all options the lead organisation could lead in partnership with a consortium or federation of other organisations that together deliver the requirements set out here. The lead organisation would be the single point of contact for the County Council.

The intention of this approach is that it would be more streamlined and would build on the collaborative practice already evident across the infrastructure organisations.

**Process / Timetable for the introduction of this new arrangement**

| <b>ACTION</b>  | <b>DATE</b>       |
|--|-------------------|
| Return of feedback on this Draft Brief from Infrastructure Organisations | 08/01/2016        |
| Provider Forum   | 10/03/2016        |
| Advert about this opportunity published (Contracts Finder)               | 05/04/2016        |
| Advert emailed to identified prospective providers                       | 05/04/2016        |
| Tender goes live   | 05/04/2016        |
| Tender return date   | 09/05/2016        |
| Presentations  | 16/05/2016        |
| Preferred supplier(s) identified and approved                            | 20/06/2016        |
| Award letters issued   | 01/07/2016        |
| Contract Award Notice published (Contracts Finder)                       | 04/07/2016        |
| <b>Contract start date</b>   | <b>01/09/2016</b> |

|   |
|---|
| <b>Do you have any comments on Section Four?</b>                    |
| <b>For Clarification:</b>   |
| <b>Feedback (please indicate your preferred funding option(s)):</b> |

# Stronger Together

Cambridgeshire County Council's  
Strategy for Building Resilient Communities

October 2015

## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Our vision for building resilient communities .....                                 | 3  |
| The context – Cambridgeshire County Council’s whole Council business planning ..... | 3  |
| Building Resilient Communities: Success factors .....                               | 4  |
| The drivers for change .....  | 4  |
| The evidence base .....   | 5  |
| Communication .....   | 7  |
| People helping people .....   | 8  |
| Council Members .....   | 11 |
| Our workforce .....   | 13 |
| Community spaces .....  | 16 |
| Partnerships .....  | 18 |
| Risk .....  | 20 |
| Financial benefits .....  | 20 |

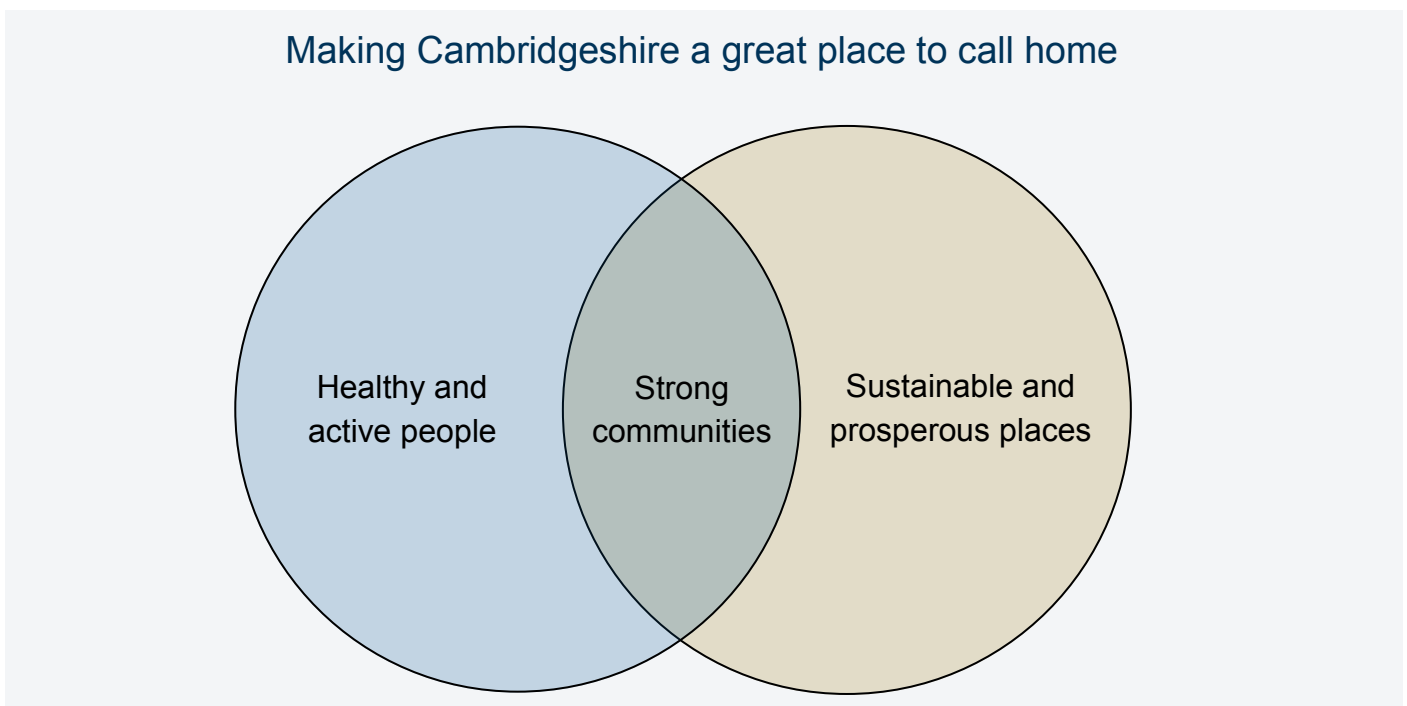
## Our vision for building resilient communities

We have a vision for a stronger future for our communities where strengths are recognised and where people can easily find the information and advice they need to be happy and healthy citizens. Cambridgeshire will be a place where people are part of well-networked communities, and where they get the right help to play an active role within their neighbourhoods.

## The context – Cambridgeshire County Council’s whole Council business planning

Our vision is set within the wider context of change in our approach to business planning across the County Council. We are moving from an incremental year on year approach to business planning, focused on specific services, to a longer term outcome led approach to planning for the whole council. As pressure on resources continues across the public sector the challenge of providing effective public services in the midst of increasing demand and growing customer expectations requires new approaches and new thinking.

The Council’s vision for its future planning is:



Having strong communities at the heart of this vision is paramount.

It is worth stating that a community is not only defined by a local geographical area (a “community of place”). Communities include families and wider networks, and “communities of interest” – people who define themselves as part of a group with an interest or a characteristic in common.

## Building Resilient Communities: Success factors

If we are successful in building communities we expect to see the following:

- ▶ The numbers of people requiring our services will be reduced;
- ▶ Where people do need help from us, this help is planned jointly with the local community so that support is seamless and the support that we provide directly is minimised;
- ▶ Local communities provide an effective step down resource following more intensive help from Council services;
- ▶ People playing an active role in services, those who have benefitted from our services will offer their own help to others;
- ▶ People will be better placed to help themselves and each other so that those who need a little extra support can find this from within their local community;
- ▶ People can support themselves, through a better use of digital technology or through community networks while some services withdraw;
- ▶ The extent to which an action supports community resilience plays a key part in decisions on Council policy and practice.

We will wherever possible establish measurable success factors so that we can clearly evidence what works in local areas.

## The drivers for change

All public sector organisations face enormous challenges in the next few years. Rising demand together with significantly reduced resources will make redesigning public services imperative. Services will increasingly need to become more targeted and capacity will continue to be more stretched. There will need to be fewer services delivered directly by public bodies, to fewer people. In fact, service provision as we know it will need to change radically – the County Council and the wider public sector will look very different in five years' time.

This means that there is a real imperative to work alongside local people to facilitate local community action that helps to mitigate any increasing vulnerability or rising need in their community.

We are not starting from zero. Much work is already happening across the Council as part of our drive to improve the way we work, and to build our business plans for the future. For example, we have begun redesigning our Adult Social Care workforce to build a stronger focus on families and communities, and we have a new Libraries Strategy which is clear about the role of local libraries in building more resilient and supportive communities.

This approach extends to communities taking a more active role in managing their local environment. Already, a number of communities, with help from the Council, have taken the lead on a range of initiatives such as establishing local green spaces, managing nature reserves and implementing village speed limits. Our Local Highway Improvement Initiative has been a huge success, with communities identifying and part-funding improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, whilst the Parish Paths Partnerships, where local people take an active part in looking after and developing new paths, have helped improve local access to the countryside, which in turn contributes to healthy lifestyles.



## The drivers for change...

The Council has to prioritise its funding for looking after the County's infrastructure where there is greatest need. For example, we have introduced an asset management strategy for the road network, to ensure every penny spent is effective use of money. However, this means that we will not be able to meet every community's expectations. We will, however, seek to support communities that are prepared to take initiatives. For example, working with other public bodies, such as the police and district councils, we are able to provide support to implement Speedwatch schemes run by local people, and help with No Cold-Calling Zones to address problems with nuisance callers.

Our key focus must be on managing demand for our high cost services. As a Council, we recognise the need to make sure that people are better placed to help themselves and each other, so that when extra support is needed this can be found within their local communities. Our efforts to support strong communities will aim to focus on preventative actions which can help to keep people away from needing services delivered by the Council, recognising that very often the best and most sustainable help comes from neighbours and peers.

The Council has an increased focus on a strengths-based approach – for individuals and for communities. This means that we will look first at the strengths within people's lives – their family and community networks, their interests and their abilities, in order to link people with the right sources of support and help which build upon these strengths. Communities that are more connected need fewer public services, create good places to live, and improve outcomes for residents. People are not passive recipients of services – they have an active role to play in creating better outcomes for themselves and for others, and they themselves will be the starting point for tackling emerging issues.

We will work towards having '**more open public services that have the mobilisation of people as their core organising principle**'. (Clarence and Gabriel – Nesta 2014). This means that our services will have a real focus on building the willingness and capacity of local people to help others and to input to their local area. In doing this, we reposition the Council as part of the wider community, providing only those services that local people cannot do for themselves, and facilitating the capacity of local people to meet local needs for themselves.

This significant shift in the way that we deliver services requires political and executive leadership, and a workforce that is able to change and adapt to very different ways of working. As such, community resilience is a key enabler in our new operating model.

## The evidence base

From national and local work, we have a wealth of evidence about what works in building strong resilient communities and helping to manage demand for high-cost Council services. This helps us to begin to reset the relationship between local government and local communities, providing evidence about where and how local communities work best.

## The evidence which drives what we do:

- ▶ **Professionals with a problem-solving brief will tend to see and respond to problems** – our workforce of the future will need to be able to provide the short-term intensive support that some vulnerable people will need, but also be able to nurture the sparks of local community support within the communities in which they work. <sup>i</sup>
- ▶ **When people help other people it creates stronger communities and higher levels of social capital** – with all of the associated economic, social and health and wellbeing benefits that brings. <sup>ii</sup>
- ▶ **Relying on needs assessments to understand a community perpetuates a focus on needs from the perspective of services we provide** – this can miss identifying the strengths and assets that communities can bring to solve collective problems. <sup>iii</sup>

## The evidence which drives how we work:

- ▶ **Professionals are not necessarily the best people to deliver services** – research shows that in many cases trained peer supporters are much better placed to deliver some services. <sup>iv</sup>
- ▶ **Community leadership from our elected councillors** – can help to create a climate for better engagement and a more honest conversation with local communities. <sup>v</sup>
- ▶ **Alternative governance arrangements, like cooperatives and mutual** – can give communities the opportunity to design and run their own services, creating greater ownership and take up. <sup>vi</sup>
- ▶ **The role of the public sector is changing, and with that the role of the professional within it** – we need to build our role in providing the platform for social connection rather than simply providing a direct service in response to need. <sup>vii</sup>
- ▶ **Local people identify with where they live and have a natural interest in being part of a strong community** – so there is an opportunity to tap into this in order to generate behaviour change and a greater sense of responsibility for community wellbeing. <sup>viii</sup>
- ▶ **Engaging the community in co-designing and commissioning services** – is the best way to achieve long-term transformative change alongside more resilient communities. <sup>ix</sup>

## The evidence which drives where we work:

- ▶ **Community-led community spaces provide the critical link between families who would not traditionally use children's services and link volunteers with vulnerable adults** – where there is light touch peer support to help them at home and easy connections to other sources of support. <sup>x</sup>

## Areas of focus

If we are to be successful in achieving this fundamental shift of emphasis – from a focus on need and service provision to a focus on mobilising the energies and strengths within communities – we need to articulate the framework within which decisions and actions will be taken across the whole of the Council. Our framework for community resilience will focus on these key areas:

- ▶ Communication
- ▶ People helping people
- ▶ Council Members
- ▶ Our workforce
- ▶ Community spaces
- ▶ Partnerships.

## Communication

We do not underestimate the scale of the challenges we face. Success will depend upon a cultural shift within our local communities, away from an “entitlement culture” – the expectation of public services as delivery agents meeting the needs of local people – towards an understanding of everyone “doing their bit”, with local citizens as active co-deliverers and co-designers of provision in their local community.

We need to get the message right in order to achieve this. The Council will initiate an honest conversation with the public about the reality of future public service provision and the role of the local community in the future. Within this conversation, we need to work with the community to find out what they might be able to do without our help, and how we can work better alongside local people, local groups and local community assets. We will work to reposition the Council as part of the local community – one organisation of many locally who work together for local people.

We will improve the way we gather local communication, knowledge and information so that information on very local activities and support are accessible in very local areas, for example, through community hubs. Community hubs will have a vital role in this local intelligence gathering and asset mapping, and provide the key contact for local service providers and local people to find out about local community activity.

### **We aim to have achieved the following by 2020:**

A fundamental shift in the way that our service provision and local communities interact, with Council and local people working together to help those who are more vulnerable.

A clear understanding and agreement on provision which needs to be led by the public sector, provision that could be led by local communities, for example by parish councils, and provision that we can do together.

A shared understanding of what works to promote and facilitate community self-help and community action, building on successful local practice and a growing national evidence-base.

Easy access to up-to-date information on local community activity – for our own staff and for local people.

Local people understand and can input to their neighbourhood, and know where to go for help if they want to find out how to form a community group or apply for funding. The Council actively supports and facilitates community action.

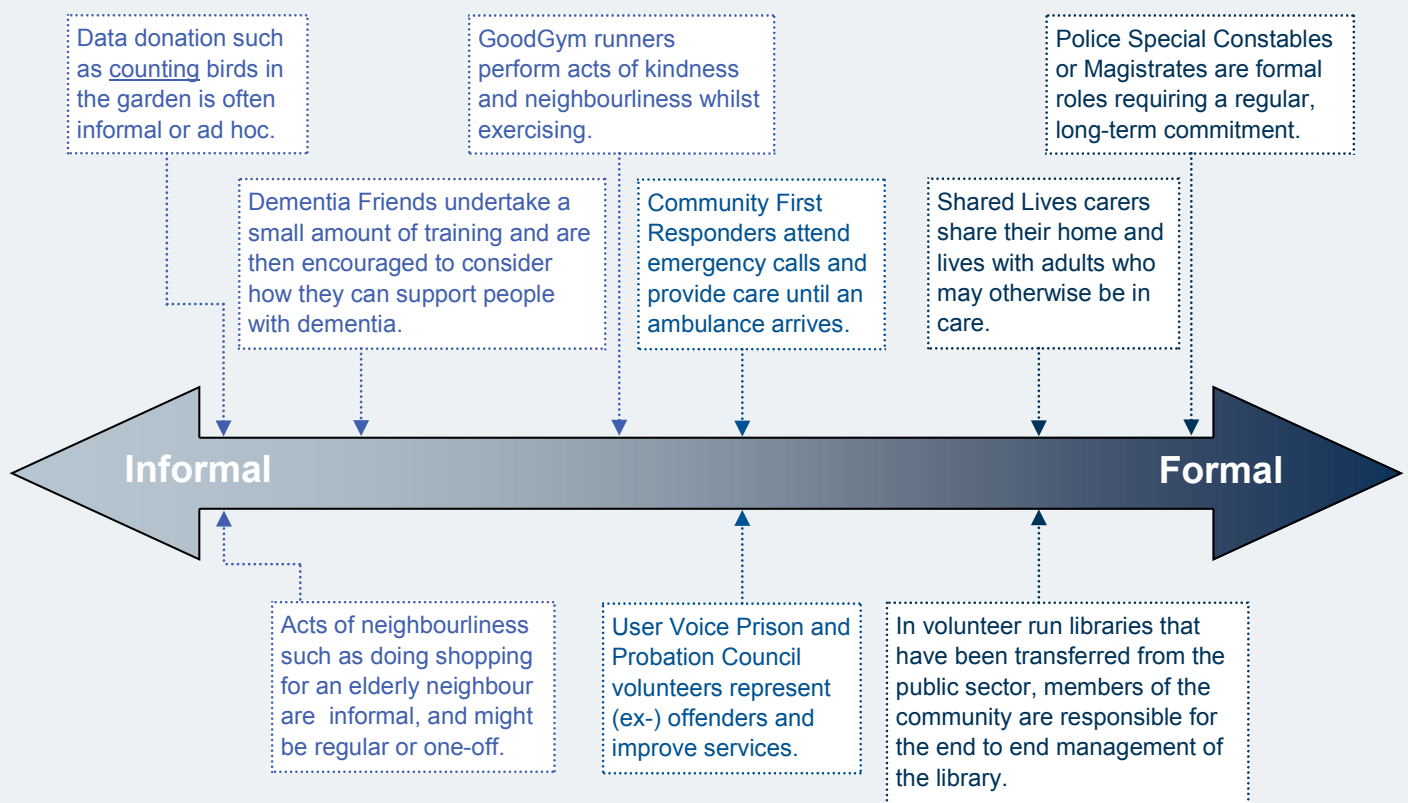
## People helping people

Research shows us that professionals are not always the right people to provide help and support. Help from local community peers, with a clear mechanism for their support and training, can be far more effective in reaching people who may begin to need help but who do not come forward to ask for help from professional services. We will make sure that our own services are more systematic in identifying, supporting and deploying peer supporters.

There are already very many people who volunteer their time to help others, both in more formal capacities, or informally at very local levels. Many of our services recruit, support and deploy local volunteers, and we will get better at coordinating these volunteering opportunities and building upon and celebrating their success.

### Mobilising citizens: the spectrum of social action

**Volunteering, giving, neighbourliness, reciprocity, pro-social behaviour, people-powered public services: what underpins the myriad of such terms is the simple idea of people helping people, of individuals freely taking action to benefit others.**



(Nesta 2014)

## People helping people...

We recognise the inherent strengths within communities, and we want to provide the right environment for local community groups to thrive. These small, locally-driven groups are often better at meeting the needs of their own communities, and are able to lever other sources of support and funding to add value to their offer. Equally, community leaders exist in all communities, and where these leaders have plans to build community action and community support, we will help them to do so.

We will provide information and advice to help local people to establish local activity, for example, through developing an online toolkit giving advice on sources of funding, support and training that community groups can access, and through opening up our own buildings to local community groups so that they can work alongside us.

We want to build community strengths including:

- ▶ the skills, knowledge and connections of local residents
- ▶ the collective power of local informal associations and clubs
- ▶ the collective resources of public, private and non-profit institutions
- ▶ the physical and economic resources of local places
- ▶ the shared stories, culture and heritage of communities.

## **We aim to have achieved the following by 2020:**

A defined role for some of our frontline workforce about identifying and nurturing peer support and intergenerational support – recruiting and deploying a team of peer or intergenerational supporters drawn from those who have successfully overcome problems or vulnerabilities themselves. This is explicit in job descriptions.

Parent, young people or older people peer supporters are identified, trained and nurtured so that people with emerging or additional needs can access the early help and support they need from people that they trust, thus preventing escalation to higher cost services.

Online communities are supported and developed to facilitate people helping others without the need for Council intervention, for example, through the development of “virtual school gates” – online forum for parents in a school catchment area – so that parents can help and advise each other.

New governance arrangements or informal community leadership are actively supported where appropriate, to give communities the opportunity to design and run their own services so that they can better meet the needs of their own communities.

A clear role for managers in identifying, creating or commissioning the opportunities for need to be met within communities, and managing volunteer resources and local community-facing budgets.

Further investment in community-based support where there is evidence that this reduces direct service delivery costs, e.g. community navigators, foster care for older people and different ways of meeting the needs of people needing home care.

## Little Miracles – Parents helping parents

Little Miracles' story is one of people coming together to make things happen for families with children with additional needs and disabilities

The group came together after founders Michelle and Tessa met on a bus. Michelle said: *'The bus driver refused to take my son, who was born with Down's Syndrome, on the bus because of his oxygen. I refused to get off the bus, I was so demoralised that I sat down in the aisle and cried. Fortunately, Tessa was on the bus. She was also a mum of a child with Down's Syndrome and she took me out for a coffee. It was amazing to share experiences with someone who had gone through the same struggles.'*

Michelle and Tessa got on so well that they continued meeting for coffee regularly. Tessa invited a few more parents and before they knew it they had an informal support group and started running activities that parents asked for. It went from strength to strength and outgrew various venues until they were given a disused Council building and DIY SOS created a purpose-built centre for us in Peterborough.

Since then Little Miracles has supported parents to set up branches in Ely and Ramsey (supporting around 200 and 80 families respectively) and more recently in St Neots. Each branch looks very different, based on what parents need, but all provide a range of free activities, training, drop-ins and trips, as well as training peer supporters in bereavement support, benefits advice, counselling and how to refer to other organisations.

Michelle added: *"The informality is really valued. It's really important to us that there's no difference between parents and volunteers, and we all support each other. All our staff have additional needs themselves or have children with special needs. Our trustees are always parents. We recruit great professionals to our advisory boards, but it's the parents that make all the decisions. This way means that we've got an amazing panel of experts to support us, but our users are empowered to make all the decisions for themselves, so that what we offer really reflects what families want."*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Full case studies available from: [community@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:community@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## Council Members

Our Councillors are important to these changes. Members will have a proactive role to play as community leaders within the local communities in their own divisions. Members can create a climate for better engagement between public sector, voluntary sector and community leaders, providing the “glue” locally to bring activity together and playing a critical part in the conversation that needs to happen between the Council and local communities. They know the enablers and community leaders locally and can help to ensure that these community enablers have the right help and support to be successful in their activities.

Members have two key roles to play in developing stronger and more resilient local communities:

1. **Community engagement** – Members facilitate the flow of information and intelligence between local communities and the Council, both in identifying the issues and opportunities within their divisions, and in providing the intelligence local communities need in order to get involved. Councillors will also need to engage with and represent their communities with other organisations such as NHS Trusts, Police services, Jobcentre Plus, and others. In developing this role, it will be crucial to ensure that the expectations of communities are managed effectively.
2. **A community advocate** – nationally, policy makers are highlighting the role for elected members in identifying the needs, wants and assets in the communities they represent, both in terms of vulnerable people and in terms of agencies working in the local area. Members can then act as a conduit between community groups and public services to build real grassroots partnerships to meet the local identified need.

### We aim to have achieved the following by 2020:

Councillors have a clear understanding of the features of resilient communities, and understand their key role in supporting this.

Councillors play a lead role in communities co-designing and co-delivering support needed locally.

Local councillors champion community-based provision, proactively linking parish, district, county and community services around a defined understanding of the strengths and needs locally. They identify key people within communities and seek local solutions to be delivered by local people.



## Somersham Health and Wellbeing Group – a Member's Perspective

About four years ago I volunteered to pilot a new approach to local community involvement in my patch. Being a parish councillor and also a district councillor helped me to sell the idea of piloting this to the Parish Council.

We encouraged people to contribute their ideas for a local plan, through public events where people used photographs to show what they liked and disliked in their community. The resulting exhibition encouraged more comments and I added some key issues myself that professionals were identifying but weren't necessarily obvious to local people attending, such as childhood obesity and helping older people.

We then set up a Timebank, and the Parish Council agreed to employ a co-ordinator. That has made it easy to swap skills and resources. If someone has a big event, they are able to borrow chairs from the church or village hall. When the football club holds a tournament, marshals with hi-vis jackets are provided by the Christmas Lights working party. As people took advantage of the benefits, they were starting to be better connected. Seeing how that worked made it clear to me that we could do more to work together locally to increase our resilience.

There was no forum for people to exchange knowledge and ideas. Many of those working in the community did not know of each other's existence, let alone contact details. This made it difficult to deliver the actions identified in our Community Plan – in particular around childhood obesity and supporting older people. Health providers and commissioners made encouraging noises, but it was not within anyone's remit to take this forward. It was clear if I wanted it to happen I just had to get on with it myself.

So I set up a very local health and wellbeing group for my Division and invited local practitioners, service providers, volunteers etc. I wasn't sure if people would show up – but nearly two years later, they are still showing up and the group has grown and now includes the Clinical Commissioning Group. We've been able to do some asset mapping together – looking at everything that is available in our communities, all the positive energy of people and all the knowledge and resources that we could all draw on.

It's really important that a group like this is not a talking shop. We always make sure we take actions away. We meet every four months, and now people know who's working locally and how to get in touch between meetings, they work on things together much more. The local practice nurse has been so impressed that she's set up a similar group in Warboys.

The thing is, nobody told me what was needed – being a proactive councillor involves identifying needs and opportunities. If you're really linked in to your community then you'll be able to work out what's missing and help put it in place – you have a license to take the initiative because that's why you were elected. If we think about it, the whole point of elected councillors is that they increase the resilience of the system. If we restrict our activity to being reactive, solving problems as and when presented, we are just preserving the status quo. We all know that is no longer an option. If we want our communities to change to cope with the challenges ahead, we need to act as catalysts for that change.



## Our workforce

Through our recruitment practices and through training and development, we will build a workforce that is equipped with the skills needed for new ways of working – skills which include:

- ▶ the ability to build networks and relationships, empathetic
- ▶ the ability to motivate and potentially manage volunteers
- ▶ the ability to innovate to develop local solutions
- ▶ managers who are enabling and not process-driven
- ▶ solutions-focused
- ▶ good communicators and facilitators
- ▶ flexibility and adaptable to change.

We need to reposition our workforce across the whole of the Council so that practice is built on a strengths-based approach, building on the strengths of each individual and their networks and neighbourhoods, rather than a focus on deficits and needs. This will mean redefining roles and responsibilities both for frontline practitioners and for management roles.

We know that this will need significant workforce development and culture change. Our staff are trained and experienced in delivering services to people in need, and a move towards community development and community resilience will entail a very different way of thinking and working for some. Currently, the system tends to wait for people to fall into crisis, then assesses people in terms of their deficits (defining people by what they cannot do) and then provides professional services to meet deficits that have been further re-defined in terms of the service provision available. Frontline staff and their managers will need support and training in order to focus their work in very different ways – ways which build on prevention and community support rather than crisis intervention and public services.

We also know that community volunteers will need to be properly trained and supported in order to carry out their roles safely and effectively. We will therefore look to expand our workforce development opportunities to include our role in identifying, encouraging or supporting people we work with to give back to help others. We will want to explore how we can develop role generosity in some areas to facilitate and support good early intervention across age groups.

We recognise that communities are intergenerational – and yet we tend to segment our services by the age of those needing help. We will take steps where possible towards a workforce that works locally, across age groups, to better reflect how local communities best thrive. In doing this, we will make explicit the role of each frontline practitioner as the “first point of contact” for people who need some help, and make sure that our workforce is equipped with the materials and information that they need to link people into their local communities. We will be clear about the skills that we will need in a workforce which focuses across age groups and networks.

## **We aim to have achieved the following by 2020:**

Good working relations between local public sector and voluntary sector staff, through workforce development, shared workspaces and joint roles across organisations.

A workforce which has at its heart the attributes needed to work across sectors and organisations, seeking solutions and innovating to involve local communities.

A relationship-based “community first” approach to frontline work which links more vulnerable people with sources of help from within their own networks and neighbourhoods, instead of defining support as either commissioned or provided directly by our own staff. Our interventions leave people more connected with their community.

Refocused roles across our workforce which clarify their role in developing community resilience, and build in an intergenerational approach to frontline work. The development of Think Family – or equivalent Think Community.

Close relationships between the voluntary and community sector groups, local community leaders and organisers, local businesses and our own workforce. Community and voluntary groups understand our role in relation to what they do and what we can offer (e.g. space, training, expertise) and how and when to contact us.

## New ways of working to connect people and their community

Ben is a young adult on the Autistic Spectrum who had really struggled to engage in activities. He has support from Adult Social Care, and is also being seen by probation services as he's previously been charged with assault.

Ben has been attending a Learning Disability setting, and would normally have one to one support and close supervision because of his difficulties and his criminal record. Ben's workers would not have felt confident or able to suggest that he could take part in a mainstream activity. However, staff in Adult Social Care are being encouraged to innovate and to seek local solutions for their clients rather than relying on the more traditional care package. So when staff heard about a volunteer gardening group through the local Volunteer Centre they felt able to suggest that this might be something Ben would want to get involved in.

With Ben's consent, workers shared the risk assessment with the gardening group and the group were completely unfazed. They already worked with people who were out of work and had a criminal record; they were confident that Ben would be able to participate safely.

Traditional Learning Disability services would not have been able to provide the same experience to Ben. Allowing him access to sharp tools may have been seen as too risky, particularly as there would be vulnerable and physically fragile service users around. There would be more staff around and less possibility of independence. At the gardening project, it's a completely different atmosphere. Ben has a task he needs to achieve, and he responds positively to his independence.

As well as the gardening project Ben is now much better able to access his local library. The staff in the library have all had autism training, and training was also offered to the local Costa Coffee he likes to go to. Costa were really happy to engage, and took a phone number in case there was an incident – but said they didn't need any training to be welcoming, supportive and accepting of Ben.

In the last six months, Ben has had no further police involvement. He's shown himself that there's a wider world, and he can access meaningful activities outside Learning Disability services. The most important change enabling staff to help Ben more effectively was being encouraged to think differently about risk, to share information more freely and to focus on finding local solutions rather than following set processes.

## Community spaces

We want to work locally, in local areas which are accessible to local people. We will aim to work from buildings that are shared spaces used by our own teams alongside Partners, voluntary sector organisations and community groups. This will build more collaborative working and help to blur the line between council and wider community support.

Through our work in new and growing communities, we have developed a set of principles for establishing community hubs to provide the catalyst for community development and to encourage community resilience. We will build upon these principles to develop a network of community spaces across the county. This model will enable us to rationalise the use of our buildings, using very local knowledge to identify spaces which communities use most, and also will help to build the links between local public and voluntary sector organisations, local businesses and local people.

We will network best within local communities in buildings which are already well used by local people. This may be a building currently run by the Council, e.g. a library or children's centre, but may equally be a community centre or village hall. We will support the development of a network of spaces, services and activities in an area around this central hub – providing the opportunity for local service providers and local people to work together through this network to identify and respond to local issues. This network will be key to recruiting, supporting and deploying volunteers within local areas, and will link vulnerable or isolated people into sources of community support.

This means that we will rationalise the use of our buildings across our Council services and with Partners. Alongside our own service provision, we will ensure where possible that local community groups can share our space and work alongside us to provide services for local communities. There will be occasions where our buildings are deemed surplus to requirements, and decisions will need to be made about the future use of these buildings.

Our buildings are public assets. They need to function in a way that has the most value for Cambridgeshire. There is a balance to be struck between the social value which a property asset can help to generate, and the financial value which an asset can release to support the Council's delivery of services or investment in alternative community resilience initiatives across the county. Financial value cannot be discounted merely because an asset can be put to a local community, charitable or 'not for profit' use.

We will make decisions on the future of our buildings based upon a set of clear principles which incorporate the drive to develop resilient communities, ensuring that there are sound social and financial bases to our decisions.

The Council has others assets too which need to be used in ways which make most sense and bring the most value for Cambridgeshire residents. For example, we have mobile facilities such as mobile libraries. We recognise that we need to improve the way that we use these assets to support resilience within communities.

## **We aim to have achieved the following by 2020:**

A network of community spaces which are the first port of call for the local community (see appendix), rationalising the use of existing buildings such as libraries and children's centres, and joining with Partners where possible around local community spaces.

Agreed criteria by which disposal, continued use or asset transfer at nil cost will be appropriate where County Council assets are not required for County Council operational use.

A clear set of policy statements (community asset transfer, community right-to-buy, reducing capital liabilities, land disposal) to guide decision making for our councillors and for potential providers

Further exploration of the use of our wider assets to better support community resilience.

## **Vir2oso taps into talented town**

Vir2oso is the brainchild of Tracey, a social entrepreneur who has discovered that St Neots has got talent. Her story is one which shows how real energy can be unleashed if encouraged and developed unhindered.

Vir2oso was born out of frustration, with Tracey finding that there were no affordable arts opportunities locally for her two sons and other kids.

Rather than sticking her head in the sand, she decided to use the power of social networking and soon found out there were like-minded people locally on Facebook who felt the same way and were willing to give a helping hand and volunteer.

Then things really started to happen. She started working with the Children's Services Locality Team who offered her some space at the Bargroves Centre. This meant she now had a base to run arts activities and clubs for local kids, allowing them to explore their creativity and develop their confidence with volunteers on hand to help. She also has a market stall and recently got funding for an arts caravan where people can come along on market days and have a go.

The relationship with the Locality Team is a true partnership – they can support her to explore new ideas and have trained Vir2oso volunteers in youth work. In return, Tracey supports their work and Vir2oso runs youth activities that the Locality Team can no longer provide. She says that more opportunities for local decision making would be amazing, so if people who know the area think something would be useful, they are empowered just to say yes!

## Partnerships

This strategy focuses for now on the role of the County Council in relation to community resilience, as well as the role of LGSS (Local Government Shared Services) particularly in terms of community spaces and workforce strategy.

However, the relationship between local authorities, NHS, police and housing providers needs to be more fluid. Statutory and voluntary sectors including faith-based organisations need to create better forums for sharing insight and jointly building platforms for commissioning and delivering services.

There is also an opportunity for public agencies to think about the contribution that can be made by the private sector and the ways that businesses can work in partnership with local authorities, not just as service deliverers but also as corporate citizens. The future sustainability of our local communities will depend upon the extent to which communities can become more economically and socially productive – and how effective public agencies are in supporting this.

We recognise therefore that a strategy to build resilient communities cannot function in isolation. Hence this strategy will be further developed and delivered in partnership with other community stakeholders, in the public, voluntary and business sectors.

### **We aim to have achieved the following by 2020:**

Businesses are engaged with their local area as corporate citizens.

There is an agreed set of working practices and processes in working with local health services (e.g. midwives, health visitors, district nurses and GPs) so that when they identify potential vulnerabilities (e.g. older people becoming frailer, pregnant women who may struggle with motherhood), there is a system to link these people with sources of local support.

Voluntary sector organisations and adult learning providers work closely with us in our aims to build community capacity.

A broader partnership strategy or agreement to build community resilience which builds on the commitments from the Council.

## Godmanchester Baptist Church

We run a group for carers and toddlers on Wednesday morning. There's crafts, singing and we usually end with a story. About 60 families attend. There's very high use by the Polish and Hungarian communities – having a big, integrated group means that they can get help with translation if they need it, but also that it's possible to just chat and socialise in their own language. There's loads of signposting and informal support that goes on during this session, both from volunteers and also between the parents who attend. One of the parents is a National Childbirth Trust rep, there's often breastfeeding support or second hand clothes for sale, and we're in talks with the local library about starting to run a micro-library. But more importantly than any of that, it's so valuable for parents with young children just to have another adult to talk to. People really value the relaxed atmosphere, we have tea and coffee and parents are able to socialise.

We also run a children's club for ages 7-11, with games, craft activities. At the same time we run a coffee area for parents to be able to relax and chat while children play independently. This is somewhere that very supportive conversations take place – for example, a lot of our families share their experiences of long term separation from dads who may be working abroad, serving with the army, or otherwise absent. This is a peer support network that has just formed naturally.

When the local children's centre first started up, no one seemed to see provision for children and families as a partnership, as component parts of the local provision for families. The children's centre started running groups at the same times as another local community parenting group, which as a result almost had to close. We were able to give them some support to keep running which was fortunate because after a little while the children's centre had its funding reduced and could no longer provide those groups. So if the original community group had gone under there wouldn't have been any provision!

When the local children's centre first set up, we had very little contact with them. Better communication will help the children's centre to know that our group is a good place to refer Polish-speaking parents who might be isolated. We also offer peer support for parenting skills. On the other hand, we don't have many young mums who access our service, so we know there's a gap in provision – so that's something the children's centre will need to focus on.

Our relationship with the children's centre is forming now, and we are really hopeful that by improving our communication we can improve what we offer to local families. We know that we can all achieve far more for our local families if we work in partnership.

## Risk

By 2020, the Council will have reviewed and revised its appetite for risk across the organisation so that we have built in a greater level of trust in community action. This will have driven a change in the management working practices and frontline staff, where they are better able to step back and allow the community to step up in direct work with vulnerable people. We will have debated and prepared for the challenges that will inevitably arise.

## Financial benefits

The financial benefits of the strengths-based approach to working with individuals and on fostering more resilient and supportive communities are in relation to:

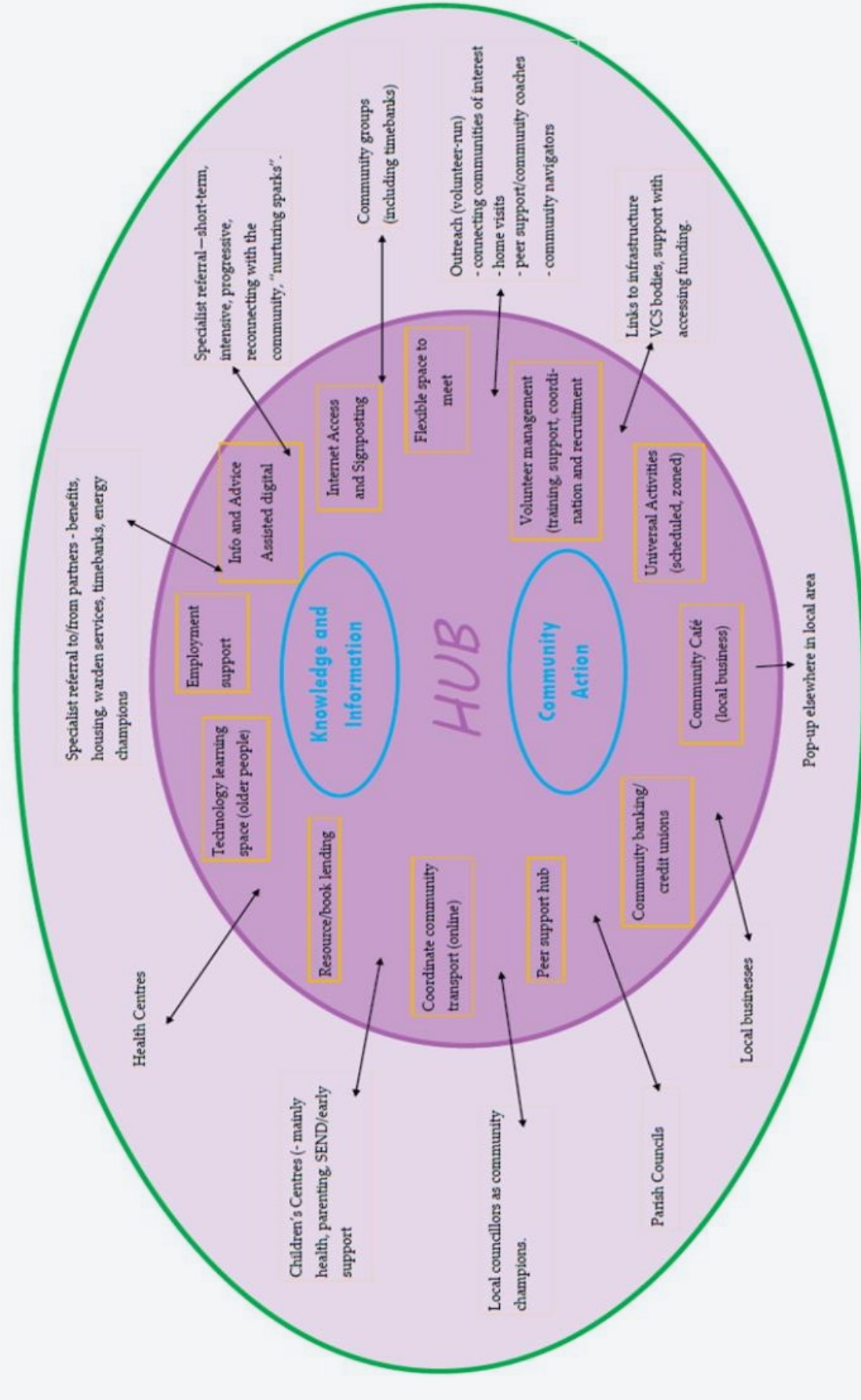
- ▶ **Costs avoided** – for example, shorter and less costly care packages for older people, where neighbours and friends can do some of the things that we currently ask domiciliary care providers to undertake, or where our Re-ablement team links people to community activities rather than extending their own input;
- ▶ **Helping to guide where savings could be made in front line services** – for example, where local parents step up to successfully offer peer support through children’s centres or other community spaces and therefore reduce the need for services for parents in crisis, or where communities undertake some highways improvement work;
- ▶ **Mitigating the impact of cuts which will have to be made to front line services** – for example, by making sure there is a greater wealth of volunteer capacity in local areas with people willing and able to give some time to help others – through more organised opportunities such as timebanks, or through raising awareness and perceptions of volunteering opportunities.

It is challenging to predict accurately the savings that will accrue. However, we will present our business planning proposals with savings predicated upon this approach. Our work now should help to guide where savings can be made, and inform decisions on how to plan our remaining service budgets in the most effective way for local people.

We will be brave about articulating what we will have to stop doing, but we will underpin this with better support to help communities to step in to do some of the things that we currently do. We will be clear about the financial contributions of local community action, and how this financial contribution can help to protect some Council services.



# Building community resilience through community spaces – an example



Help to help yourself

Help from the local community

Help to get involved

- i Community Connectors Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Pilot Project Report  
*April 2014*
- ii Clarence and Gabriel (2014) “People Helping People – the future of public services”  
[www.nesta.org.uk](http://www.nesta.org.uk)
- iii Russell (2009) “Communities in Control – Developing Assets”  
[www.carnegietrust.org.uk](http://www.carnegietrust.org.uk)
- iv “Radical Efficiency in Action – Transforming Early Years”  
[www.innovationunit.org](http://www.innovationunit.org) [www.nesta.org.uk](http://www.nesta.org.uk)
- v “Managing Demand: Building Future Public Services”  
[www.thersa.org](http://www.thersa.org)
- vi “Radical Efficiency in Action – Transforming Early Years”  
[www.innovationunit.org](http://www.innovationunit.org) [www.nesta.org.uk](http://www.nesta.org.uk)
- vii “Managing Demand: Building Future Public Services”  
[www.thersa.org](http://www.thersa.org)
- viii Clarence and Gabriel (2014) “People Helping People – the future of public services”  
[www.nesta.org.uk](http://www.nesta.org.uk)
- ix “Managing Demand: Building Future Public Services”  
[www.thersa.org](http://www.thersa.org)
- x “Radical Efficiency in Action – Transforming Early Years”  
[www.innovationunit.org](http://www.innovationunit.org) [www.nesta.org.uk](http://www.nesta.org.uk)

Public/Confidential\*  
Key Decision - Yes

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Annual Equality Progress Report 2015

**Meeting/Date:** Overview & Scrutiny Communities and Customers Panel 5th  
January 2016  
Cabinet 21st January 2016

**Executive Portfolio:** Councillor Stephen Cawley Executive Councillor for  
Organisational Change and Development

**Report by:** Policy, Performance & Transformation Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress with the Council's equality objectives and to propose a more proportionate and effective response to Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

### **Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that the Council adopts equality objectives and actions that are more relevant and Huntingdonshire focused; for example actions that reflect the changing needs of customers and employees; support the Council in becoming more efficient in how it delivers services as well as ensuring statutory obligations are met.

## **1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT/PURPOSE?**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress with the Council's equality objectives and to propose a more proportionate and effective response to Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

## **2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Equality Act 2010 created a new Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) on public bodies to tackle discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and encourage good community relations. The duty is relevant to the Council (including Members) as both an employer and as a service provider and therefore relates to the way we work, our employment policies and procedures and the way in which we deliver services.

- 2.2 The Equality Duty consists of a general duty and several specific duties, which are intended to help public bodies meet the general duty. The general duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

- 2.3 Specific duties were introduced in June 2011, requiring public bodies to publish information demonstrating their compliance with the general duty and to set specific, measurable equality objectives.

This meant that the Council would need to publish:

- Equality objectives, at least every four years
- Information to demonstrate our compliance with the equality duty, at least annually (setting out how we understand the impact of our policies and practices on service users/customer and employees with these protected characteristics)
- Information relating to our employees.

- 2.4 The Single Equality Scheme (SES) 2010-2013 and annual HR Employee Equality Monitoring Report demonstrated how the Council would meet its statutory responsibilities, in particular how the Council would take account of:

- the Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED) as set out in the Equality Act 2010; and
- achievement against the Equality Framework for Local Government (EFLG). Achieving status was attained in February 2012.

- 2.5 The Council also committed to the continued use of Equality Impact Assessment's (EIAs) to help comply with the PSED, that is, to consciously think about the three aims of the Equality Duty as part of the process of decision making, and to understand the potential effects of decisions on different people and to keep a record of how decisions were reached. The last annual equality progress report to Members and senior officers was in March 2013. A report was not produced in 2014 due to conflicting work priorities arising out of the Corporate Team restructure. However, EIA's continued to be completed where required. Due regard relating to Information about the Council's employees was demonstrated through an annual HR Employee Equality Monitoring Report; however this was last produced in November 2013.

### **3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ANALYSIS**

- 3.1 The SES was originally approved in September 2010 and it was agreed that a full review would take place every three years and there would be an annual review of the action plan. The planned full review in 2013 was delayed whilst the government completed its review of the PSED (published September 2013). The majority of actions in the SES have been achieved. The Councils equality steering group met in February 2014 and draft equality objectives were agreed, however since that point, no further work has been carried out.
- 3.2 There is no obligation to have a separate and distinct equality policy as long as the Council has identified equality objectives and can demonstrate compliance with the other specific duties. It is proposed that SES is replaced with more relevant Huntingdonshire focused equality objectives and actions that reflect the changing needs of customers and employees; support the Council in becoming more efficient in how it delivers services as well as ensuring statutory obligations are met.; for example:
- monitoring and reviewing the impact of migrating services online to ensure they remain accessible to customers
  - gain accreditation as a Mindful employer and Dementia Friendly employer
  - ensure decisions to reduce reliance on central government funding are assessed for equality impact
  - Demonstrating compliance with the PSED through an annual report to senior officers and Members

The Council provides a wide variety of services that meet the varied needs of customers however, the HDC equality objectives will not include actions that are contained within any other Council or partnership action plan.

- 3.3 The Corporate Team will be responsible for producing the HR Equality monitoring report.

### **4. KEY IMPACTS/RISKS? HOW WILL THEY BE ADDRESSED?**

- 4.1 The Council has a statutory obligation to demonstrate compliance with the PSED, the adoption of equality objectives and the annual review report to senior officers and members ensures the Council is complying with its statutory duties. Management Team will be responsible for ensuring that the Equality objectives are achieved. Any detailed action plan arising out of the equality objectives can be inserted into the Corporate Team Service Plan.
- 4.2 Six EIAs were carried out during 2012/13, twelve during 2013/14, two during 2014/15. Since April 2015 there have been four EIAs completed.

### **5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- 5.1 Draft report to SMT, Cabinet, O&S Social Well-Being.

### **6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN**

- 6.1 Equality and inclusion is an integral part to the delivery of Huntingdonshire District Council's Corporate Plan 2015-2016. Embedding equality and inclusion throughout the Council's business is critical to achieving the overall vision of: "continuing to improve the quality of life for the people of Huntingdonshire and work towards sustainable economic growth whilst

providing value for money services” and links to all four Strategic Priorities of: - a strong local economy, enable sustainable growth, working with our communities and, a customer focused and service led Council.

- 6.2 There are strong links with the Customer Service Strategy; particularly the objectives – listen to customers, get it right first time, act and behave in the right way and make it matter to staff.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Council's Equality Steering Group, comprising members representing each service met in February 2014 and draft equality objectives were discussed and agreed.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The Equality & Human Rights Commission is responsible for regulating the PSED, if a public authority does not publish equality information as required by the specific duty regulations, they risk being subject to legal challenge (including enforcement action by the Commission), as well as potential damage to reputation.

## **9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Achievement of the equality objectives will be largely met through existing business as usual or management processes. There is a small administration fee (£100) for employers signing the Charter for Employers who are Positive About Mental Health. There may a requirement for some staff to attend mental health and dementia awareness raising sessions.

## **10. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 N/A

## **11 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 11.1 The Council should make a proportionate and effective response to statutory and business requirements.

## **13. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1 – Equality Objectives

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

Louise Sboui  
Policy, Performance & Transformation Manager  
01480 388032

| <b>Corporate Equality Objectives 2015/2019</b>   | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Link to Corporate Plan Strategic Priorities and other Strategy or Policy (where relevant)</b>  | <b>Responsibility</b>                   | <b>Resource</b>                   | <b>Action review date</b>      |
|--|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Demonstrate compliance with the equality duty  | Annual report (including HR monitoring) to Senior Officers, and Members   | Ensuring we are a customer focused and service-led council<br>Working with our communities  | Corporate Team<br>LGSS                  | Staff time                        | Annual                         |
| Continue to ensure proposed decisions are assessed for equality impact                 | Equality Impact Assessment of any activities to reduce reliance on central government funding (Facing the Future, ZBB, Shared Services etc.)<br><br>Refresh Management Team awareness of the importance of completing EIA's | Ensuring we are a customer focused and service-led council<br><br>Customer Service Strategy:<br>Listen to customers<br>Act and behave in the right way  | SMT and<br>Corporate Team               | Staff time                        | Annual                         |
| To collect and analyse service user information more effectively                       | Ensure consistency in customer satisfaction survey question(s) so that a summary of customer satisfaction, participation rates or feedback from consultation (disaggregated by equality groups) can be produced             | Ensuring we are a customer focused and service-led council<br><br>Customer Service Strategy:<br>Listen to customers   | Corporate Team<br><br>Customer Services | Staff time                        | Annual                         |
| A skilled and committed workforce  | Gain accreditation as a Mindful Employer<br><br>Gain accreditation as a Dementia Friendly Employer  | Ensuring we are a customer focused and service-led council<br><br>Customer Service Strategy:<br>Act and behave in the right way<br>Make it matter to staff<br><br>Workforce Strategy:<br>Identify organisation development and learning needs | Corporate Team<br>LGSS                  | tbc no external costs anticipated | Accreditation achieved by 2017 |
| Provide support to customers to ensure online services are accessible                  | Monitor and review impact of migrating services online  | Ensuring we are customer focused and service-led council<br>Customer Service Strategy:<br>Provide value for money services  | Customer Services                       | tbc                               | tbc                            |
| Compliance with the Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board Section 11 Audit' | Complete S11 Safeguarding Audit outcome action plan   | Ensuring we are a customer focused and service-led council  | Leisure & Health<br>Customer Services   | Staff time                        | Achieved by January 2016       |

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**Public**  
**Key Decision - No**

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Title/Subject Matter:** Response by the Cabinet to Findings and Recommendations of Affordable Housing Working Group

**Meeting/Date:** Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Communities and Customers) – 5th January 2016

**Executive Portfolio:** Councillor D B Dew (Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Housing) and Councillor D M Tysoe (Executive Member for Customer Services)

**Report by:** Councillor J Ablewhite (Executive Leader and Chairman of the Cabinet)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

To provide a formal response following a series of recommendations submitted to the Cabinet by the Affordable Housing Working Group.

### **Recommendation(s):**

That the Panel receive and consider the response as detailed in Appendix 1.

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## **1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT/PURPOSE?**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 19th November 2015 the Cabinet received a report from the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-being) inviting the Cabinet to consider and respond to the findings and final recommendations of the Affordable Housing Working Group.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide a formal response to the recommendations submitted to the Cabinet.

## **2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Working Group was established in March 2014 by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-being) Panel to initially investigate the policies and procedures of Registered Providers. In July/August 2014 the Group's remit was amended to undertake a study on affordable housing.
- 2.2 At the last meeting of the Working Group it was agreed that a final report and recommendations should be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-being). This was considered at the meeting on 3rd November 2015.
- 2.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-being) endorsed the Group's findings and recommendations and requested that the Cabinet consider and respond to these.
- 2.4 At its meeting on 19th November 2015 the Cabinet considered the findings and final recommendations of the Affordable Housing Working Group.
- 2.5 The Chairman of the Affordable Housing Working Group, Councillor R Fuller, presented the Group's report to the Cabinet on 19th November 2015.

## **3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ANALYSIS**

- 3.1 The Affordable Housing Working Group recommended that the Cabinet consider and respond to the following recommendations:

That during the development of the Housing Strategy for 2016-19 and the Local Plan to 2036:

- The Council should actively promote the provision of affordable housing on exceptions sites to Town and Parish Councils;
- Where a Parish Council does not support an exceptions site, the Council should continue to fulfil its duty to meet identified affordable housing need;
- A systematic assessment should be carried out of all land to identify potential sites for affordable housing to then be matched to needs (strategic housing land availability assessment); and
- The threshold for developments on which on-site affordable housing can be sought should be lowered from 15 to 10 dwellings.

- 3.2 The recommendations of the Affordable Housing Working Group were fully considered and endorsed by the Cabinet. The Cabinet's response is set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 As a result of the discussions the Cabinet also resolved that the Council should take legal advice to explore the options to protect local houses for local

people on rural development schemes through, amongst other things, covenants, joint ventures and charitable mechanisms.

#### **4. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN**

- 4.1 Affordable housing contributes to the strategic priority of “Enabling sustainable growth” by improving the supply of new and affordable housing to meet future needs and to the strategic priority of “Working with our communities”.

#### **5. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 5.1 In accordance with the Council’s Constitution the Cabinet is required to publish a response to the report and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

#### **6. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

- 6.1 Appendix 1 - Response by the Cabinet to Findings and Recommendations of the Affordable Housing Working Group

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Affordable Housing Working Group Papers

Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-being) Meeting - 3rd November 2015 – Minute No. 46:

<http://moderngov.huntsdc.gov.uk:8070/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=10103&MId=5695&Ver=4>

Cabinet Meeting – 19th November 2015 – Minute No. 51:

<http://moderngov.huntsdc.gov.uk:8070/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=256&MId=5682&Ver=4>

### **CONTACT OFFICER**

Melanie Sage Democratic Services Officer  
Tel No. 01480 388169

### **Response by the Cabinet to Findings and Recommendations of the Affordable Housing Working Group**

The Cabinet endorsed the following recommendations made by the Affordable Housing Working Group, that during the development of the Housing Strategy for 2016-19 and the Local Plan to 2036:

- the Council should actively promote the provision of affordable housing on exceptions sites to Town and Parish Councils;
- where a Parish Council does not support an exceptions site, the Council should continue to fulfil its duty to meet identified affordable housing need;
- a systematic assessment should be carried out of all land to identify potential sites for affordable housing to then be matched to needs (strategic housing land availability assessment); and
- the threshold for developments on which on-site affordable housing can be sought should be lowered from 15 to 10 dwellings.

It was noted that there had been incidences where a Town or Parish Council had not supported an affordable development on an exceptions site which had resulted in the non-delivery of affordable housing. The Cabinet agreed that early engagement with Town and Parish Councils was essential to prevent misinformation, to gain their support and to prevent pressure groups forming. It was hoped that Ward Members would assist in this role. However, in the event that a Town or Parish Council did not support a viable exceptions site, the Cabinet endorsed the view that the Council should take decisions that were in the best interests of the area and should fulfil its duty to meet identified affordable housing need.

The Cabinet agreed that a systematic assessment should be conducted of all land to identify potential sites for affordable housing which could then be matched to needs and noted that the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment was a significant task.

The Working Group had considered Government initiatives and their impact on the supply of new affordable housing. The policy target of 40% affordable housing still applied to all developments but there was the potential for negotiation where this was not viable. The Cabinet noted that 40% affordable housing was being achieved on smaller developments.

The Working Group had been informed that the Council could seek affordable housing contributions where there was a clear case of disaggregation of the site, whereby a developer intended to build on separate parts of a larger site over a long period. The Council's current threshold was 15 homes on urban sites due to previous Government policy. The Cabinet supported the Working Group's recommendation that the threshold for developments on which on-site affordable housing could be sought should be lowered from 15 to 10 dwelling.

Whilst referring to Community Land Trusts, the Cabinet noted that the Working Group had been provided with examples of Community Land Trusts in various areas, including in East Cambridgeshire. The Cabinet concurred with the opinion of the Working Group that the Council should not devote this level of resource to encouraging Community Land Trusts in Huntingdonshire but considered that they should be recognised, amongst the potential tools available to local communities for delivering affordable housing.

It was also noted amongst the Cabinet that there was a need to prevent and allay fears that affordable housing on rural exception sites developed on charitable land could be purchased by a person without a local connection.

The Cabinet accepted that there was a will and appetite to deliver affordable housing but land owners would not offer land for minimal financial gain. Therefore the Council needed to consider what it could do to enable the development of dwellings that were affordable to allow local people of all ages to remain living in their preferred location. In endorsing the recommendations made by the Affordable Housing Working Group, the Cabinet also resolved that the Council should take legal advice to explore options to protect local houses for local people on rural development schemes through, the amongst other things, covenants, joint ventures and charitable mechanisms.

The Cabinet expressed congratulations to the Working Group for the comprehensive report and also wished to formally acknowledge each individual Member of the Affordable Housing Working Group for their valuable contribution as follows:

Councillor R Fuller; S Van De Kerkhove; P Kadewere; R Farrer; P Bucknell and former Councillor I Curtis.

**CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF THE ECONOMY AND GROWTH AND FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE PANELS**

| STUDY   | OBJECTIVES  | PANEL              | STATUS  |
|---|---|--------------------|---|
| Flood Prevention within the District                        | To investigate flood prevention arrangements in the District and the impact of flooding on associated local policy developments.  | Economy and Growth | <p>Following a presentation on flood risk management from representatives of the Environment Agency, a scoping report was considered by the Panel in April 2014 and a Working Group appointed. The Chief Executive and Clerk to the Middle Level Commissioners delivered a presentation to the Panel's June 2014 meeting to outline their role with flood alleviation in the District and the working group met in March 2015 to consider the draft Cambridgeshire Flooding and Water SPD.</p> <p>The Panel is to receive a presentation on the role of Internal Drainage Boards at the January 2016 meeting with a view to progress the work of the working group.</p> |
| Waste Collection Policies                                   | To assist the Head of Operations and Executive Member for Operations & Environment with reviewing waste collection policies in relation to the collection points for wheeled bins/sacks and remote properties (farms and lodges). | Economy and Growth | <p>The Working Group's activities are currently on hold until the Operations Review has been completed and implemented.</p> <p>A draft new operational policy for garden waste contamination was considered at the Panel's September meeting in advance of a future report to Cabinet.</p> <p>A draft new operational policy for dry recyclates contamination was considered at the Panel's November meeting in advance of a future report to Cabinet.</p> <p>Review work for a lane end collection policy was considered at the Panel's November meeting in advance of policy development.</p>   |
| Litter Policies and Practices (to include graffiti removal) | To consider and make recommendations on future litter and graffiti service scope and standards and on public appetite for changes.  | Economy and Growth | <p>The Working Group's activities are currently on hold until the Operations Review has been completed and implemented.</p>   |

| STUDY                               | OBJECTIVES  | PANEL                   | STATUS  |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| Project Management Select Committee | To review and test the robustness of the Council's project management arrangements. | Finance and Performance | A report from the Projects and Programmes Manager on changes in Project Management was submitted to all three Overview and Scrutiny Panels in June 2015. The Panel received a six month update report on project delivery in October 2015 and a further review by the Project Management Select Committee is due in March 2016. |



| Panel Date      | Decision  | Action   | Response   | Date for Future Action   |
|-----------------|---|--|--|--------------------------|
|                 | <b><u>Hinchingbrooke Hospital</u></b>   |  |  |                          |
|                 | <b>(a) Management of the Hospital</b>   |  |  |                          |
| <b>03/03/15</b> | Hisham Abdel-Rahman, CEO, attended the Panel and reported on the Hinchingbrooke Hospital Action Plan.   |  |  |                          |
| <b>07/04/15</b> | Ruth Rogers, Chair, reported on the work of Healthwatch Cambridgeshire.   |  |  |                          |
| <b>03/11/15</b> | Mark Cammies, Estates and Facilities Director, attended the Panel and reported on the Hinchingbrooke Health Campus.   | The Panel requested regular updates on the Health Campus.                    |  | <b>Date to be agreed</b> |
|                 | <b>(b) Financial and Operational Performance</b>  |  |  |                          |
| <b>03/02/15</b> | Presentation received from Mr R Murphy, Mr K Poyntz and Ms S Shuttlewood on hospital accountability. Discussed recent CQC report on the Hospital and CCG monitoring.  | Reports to be presented to the Panel every six months.                       |  |                          |
| <b>01/09/15</b> | Report presented to the September 2015 meeting.   |  | Next report due March 2016.  | <b>01/03/2016</b>        |
|                 | <b><u>Health economy</u></b>  |  |  |                          |
| <b>06/04/15</b> | Scoping report on potential work on the health economy. Further reports requested on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the current state of Neighbourhood Planning within the area and how it was likely to develop and how it might promote community resilience;</li> <li>community engagement, including examples of good practice;</li> <li>the impact of Welfare Reforms, including fuel poverty and how this is defined;</li> </ul> | Heads of Service to schedule reports on subjects relating to their services. | A presentation on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Care System Transformation Programme is expected at the March 2016 meeting. | <b>01/03/2016</b>        |

81

Agenda Item 11

| Panel Date   | Decision   | Action  | Response  | Date for Future Action   |
|--|--|---|---|--------------------------|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reviewing the Council's Equality Impact Assessment arrangements, and</li> <li>• the impact of growth on GP surgeries, school places and hospital capacity.</li> </ul>   |   |   |                          |
| <p><b>04/12/12 / 04/03/14</b></p> <p><b>10/06/14</b></p> <p><b>04/11/14</b></p> <p><b>06/10/15</b></p> | <p><b><u>Delivery of Advisory Services Within the District</u></b></p> <p>The Voluntary Sector Working Group comprises of Councillors R C Carter, Mrs P A Jordon, P Kadewere and Mrs R E Matthews.</p> <p>Annual Performance Report presented to Working Group.</p> <p>Councillor R C Carter to contact the Community Manager to begin discussions on funding arrangements for the final year of the Voluntary Sector Agreements.</p> <p>The six voluntary sector organisations currently in receipt of three year funding awards (Strategic Grants) gave presentations on what they have delivered, how their work contributes to the Council's corporate objectives and the future challenges they face.</p> | <p>The Head of Community will report to the Panel in advance of budgets being set for grant funding available from 2016/17.</p> | <p>A report on the Voluntary Sector Grant Funding 2016/17 to 2019/20 is expected at the January 2016 meeting.</p> | <p><b>05/01/2016</b></p> |
| <p><b>10/06/14 &amp; 08/07/14</b></p>  | <p><b><u>Redesign of Mental Health Services</u></b></p> <p>Representatives from the Mental Health Service User Network (SUN) and Mind in Cambridgeshire attended meeting.</p>  |   |   |                          |

| Panel Date | Decision  | Action   | Response   | Date for Future Action   |
|------------|---|--|--|--------------------------|
| 07/04/15   | Invitation to Luminus seminar on 'Improving Outcomes for People in Crisis because of a Mental Health Condition' extended to Members.  |  |  |                          |
| 07/07/15   | The Panel received an update report on the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).   | The Panel requested further updates at future meetings.          |  | <b>Date to be agreed</b> |
| 04/06/13   | <p><b><u>Review of Elderly Patient Care at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital</u></b></p> <p>Working Group comprising of Councillors S J Criswell, Mrs P A Jordan, P Kadewere and Mrs R E Matthews appointed to undertake a review of elderly patient care at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. The study will be undertaken in conjunction with the hospital. The Panel has received an oral report on recent Working Group meeting with the hospital.</p> | Meetings held on 18 July, 11 November 2013 and 24 February 2014. | The Working Group's activities are currently on hold following a request to the Chairman because the workstream is linked to ongoing Care Quality Commission activity. |                          |
| 04/03/14   | <p><b><u>Affordable Housing</u></b></p> <p>Councillors R Fuller, P Kadewere and SM Van De Kerkhove appointed onto a Working Group to carry out the study, together with former Panel Member Councillor I C Curtis</p>   | First meeting held on 22 July 2014 to scope out the work.        | Terms of Reference agreed and further actions identified   |                          |
| 04/11/14   | Update report, including study plan and Terms of Reference.   |  |  |                          |
| 09/02/15   | Working Group meeting held to discuss Community Land trusts and rural affordable housing development.   |  | Terms for draft policies for the new Local Plan discussed and recommendations made.  |                          |
| 16/03/15   | Working Group met to discuss Government changes affecting affordable housing supply and the Elphicke-House Report.  |  |  |                          |

| Panel Date | Decision  | Action  | Response   | Date for Future Action |
|------------|---|---|--|------------------------|
| 20/04/15   | Working group meeting held to scrutinise the Housing Register and statistics on homelessness.   |   |  |                        |
| 03/11/15   | Report on findings and recommendations of the Working Group was presented to the Panel.   |   | The Panel endorsed the Working Group's recommendations and submitted to Cabinet actions for consideration. | 19/11/2015             |
| 19/11/15   | The Working Group's recommendations was submitted to Cabinet for consideration.   |   | A report of Cabinet's response to the recommendations is to be submitted to the Panel.                     | 05/01/2016             |
| 03/11/15   | <p><b><u>Registered Social Providers</u></b></p> <p>Councillors R Fuller, P Kadewere, M C Oliver and Mrs D Reynolds appointed onto a Working Group to carry out a study on Registered Social Providers</p>                            | First meeting to be held on 18 January 2016 to scope out the work.                  |  |                        |
| 03/11/15   | <p><b><u>The Impact Of Cambridgeshire County Council Budget Proposals On Huntingdonshire And It's Residents</u></b></p> <p>Councillors D Brown, S Criswell, M Francis, T Hayward and P Kadewere appointed onto the Working Group.</p> | Two meetings of the Working Group are to be held on 14 January and 19 January 2016. |  |                        |
| 05/11/15   | The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) appointed Councillors T Alban, G Bull, B Hyland and M Shellens onto the Working Group.  |   |  |                        |

| Panel Date                               | Decision  | Action   | Response   | Date for Future Action |
|--|---|--|--|------------------------|
| 10/11/15                                 | The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being) appointed Councillors Mrs S J Conboy, D A Giles, T D Sanderson and R J West onto the Working Group   |  |  |                        |
| 07/10/14<br><br>03/02/15<br><br>03/02/15 | <p><b><u>Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership (HSP)</u></b></p> <p><b>Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership</b></p> <p>Annual review of the work of the Partnership.</p> <p><b>Children and Young People</b></p> <p>Details of the thematic group's priorities received together with details of its terms of reference, membership and current matters being discussed. Presentation received.</p> <p><b>Health and Wellbeing</b></p> <p>Background information received on the thematic group's outcomes, terms of reference, membership and action plan.</p> | <p>The 2014/15 report planned for October 2015 was postponed to the November 2015 meeting.</p> <p>The group meets four times per year in January, March, June and October.</p> <p>Invitation extended to the Chairman and Vice-Chair to attend a future meeting.</p> | <p>Following the submission of a report at the December 2015 meeting, the Panel requested the attendance of Chief Inspector Laura Hunt at a future Panel meeting to discuss the crime statistics for Huntingdonshire.</p> <p>Reports to be submitted to the ensuing panel meeting.</p> | 05/01/2016             |

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