

ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
1st July 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Service Director for Communities and Safety	
Cabinet Member responsible:	Councillor Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities	
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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES
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R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Service Director for Communities and Safety	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider key recommendations from the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group - Community Involvement in Neighbourhood Issues as set out in section 4.6 of this report. 2. Note the update on the development of Think Communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and consider progress on key contributory programmes and initiatives in Peterborough, including Peterborough’s Interim Integrated Communities Strategy ‘Belonging Together’. 3. Note and agree to the proposal to explore bringing together a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough VCS infrastructure support contract from August 2020 4. Agree the new direction for how the original Task & Finish Group’s objectives and recommendations can be fulfilled via Think Communities 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to the Committee following a review of Community Involvement in Neighbourhood Issues by a Cross Party Task & Finish Group which was established on 27 June 2017 by the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee and subsequent extensive work which has taken place to develop a ‘Think Communities’ approach across the City.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 To invite Members to consider and approve the recommendations of the Task and Finish group which has reviewed Community Involvement in Neighbourhood Issues during 2017 - 2018, in the context of significant programmes of work which have emerged since June 2017. The report provides an opportunity for the Committee to be updated on progress against these wider programmes of work, and agree to specific recommendations arising from them.

2.2 This report is for the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No.2.1, Functions determined by Council:

- 4. Neighbourhood and Community Support (including cohesion, community safety and youth offending)
- 5. Equalities

- 2.3 This report links to the following corporate priorities:
- Keeping our communities safe, cohesive and healthy
 - Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

- 2.4 How does this report link to the Children in care Pledge
N/A

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 At its meeting on 20 June 2017, the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee recommended that a cross-party Task and Finish Group be established to investigate opportunities for greater collaboration between the public sector and communities, and to recommend ideas and initiatives that could be implemented, using the framework of the People and Communities Strategy as the backdrop to the work. The scope of the review was as follows:

1. To review the People and Communities Strategy to identify opportunities for the public, voluntary and community based organisations to play a role in tackling neighbourhood issues.
2. To review all available data and information relating to neighbourhood issues, and agree what issues are specifically in-scope for this work.
3. To review all existing services and interventions in place that tackle neighbourhood issues.
4. To review all existing or previous initiatives that have connected communities with the public sector to tackle neighbourhood issues.
5. To identify and review other areas of the UK or beyond where there have been successful collaborations between communities and public sector agencies to tackle neighbourhood issues.
6. To understand the skills and support that communities will need to help tackle neighbourhood issues, and to consider how and from where skills and support can be provided.
7. To identify and meet with expert witnesses to help inform discussions and recommendations.

4.2 Simultaneous to the review being undertaken, Peterborough City Council was invited to participate in two significant national programmes of work - as a pilot area for the Integrated Communities Strategy led by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and as a participatory city in the Inclusive Cities programme led by Compas - the Centre on Migration Policy and Society, hosted by the University of Oxford.

4.3 In addition, building on the themes established in the People and Communities Strategy and focus of the Task and Finish Group’s review as set out in 2.1, work has gathered pace across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough during 2018 and 2019 to build a consistent ‘Think Communities’ approach across the public, private and voluntary sector.

4.4 These mutually reinforcing areas of work corroborate and confirm the direction of travel set by the Task and Finish group, and it is proposed that they are drawn together under the overarching priority of Think Communities for the City. The collective approach of all these developments will ensure that our citizens are at the heart of our decision making as well as providing a collaborative framework to develop ways in which demand for statutory services will be prevented or delayed.

4.5 ***Recommendations arising from the Task and Finish Group***

The Cross Party Task and Finish Group undertook a range of methodologies from September 2017 to February 2018. This included desktop research, use of local knowledge from members of the group, questioning of key witnesses (including Council officers and voluntary sector groups who currently provide support services to the community in Peterborough), and responses to a survey requesting evidence of current local community activities.

4.6 Recommendations from the work undertaken were as follows:

Recommendation 1

To support the formulation of a 'Community Delivery Team';

Recommendation 2

To acknowledge the 'Community Delivery Team' as a defined delivery strand of the overarching Integration Strategy;

Recommendation 3

To ensure the Community Delivery Team has the appropriate capacity to manage more complex and/or specialist training and to support communities through the commissioning of additional resources from external providers;

Recommendation 4

To support the development of a Peterborough and Cambridgeshire community resilience strategy in order to ensure we maximise the resources available for this important work.

4.7 Whilst the review was concluded in 2018, and recommendations drawn, a decision was taken to defer the presentation of the findings of the review in order to allow for the further development of the interrelated programmes of work outlined in 4.1 - 4.3.

4.8 ***Development of Think Communities***

In February 2019, Cabinet approved the adoption of the Think Communities approach for the City, as part of a wider public, private and voluntary sector collaboration across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The report acknowledges the extensive work which has taken place during 2018 and 2019 across the public sector to develop a shared approach which signals a fundamental shift in how we approach system wide reform.

The priorities in Think Communities focus around People, Places and System and build on the following principles:

- Taking a shared approach to work in areas of high risk and vulnerability
- Understanding and removing barriers for community led activity
- Building capacity for communities to work together for the benefit of all our services
- New Communities and growth areas and hidden communities are priorities for all of us and could benefit from a shared approach
- Introducing system change, taking a broader view to recognise the complexities and allow multi agency conversations with communities
- Supporting communities to develop and deliver their own priorities which will address our needs to delay or prevent the need for costly public service involvement and which may include and go beyond public sector plans, as part of a shared demand management agenda.

4.9 For the first time, the Think Communities approach is uniting our approach to building community resilience across the County and across the public sector, and will fulfill the ambition set out in Member's recommendations in 4.6.

4.10 Significant progress is being made against all these priorities in the City, which build on the recommendations set out by the Cross Party Task and Finish group. Think Communities provides the context for significant programmes of work which are driving forward public sector

reform in the City. It is proposed these changes will be led by the delivery of the following, thereby delivering on the recommendations made by the Task and Finish group:

4.11 **PEOPLE**

4.11.1 **Think Communities Team**

The creation of an enhanced Think Communities team for Peterborough (which covers the ideas proposed by the Task and Finish Group for the Community Delivery Team), will support the delivery of our aims and ambitions to increase integration across the City, and bolster our work with communities to build capacity for them to do more of what they do best. The team will form part of a wider and integrated Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Think Communities team.

4.11.2 **Integrated Communities Strategy and Inclusive Cities**

The Committee received a briefing on the progress of the Integrated Communities Strategy in January 2019. In March, second year funding was awarded, bringing the total funds to Peterborough to £1.6m for the City Council and a further £330k for the Job Centre, Peterborough. The delivery period will be until September 2020 due to the delay in receiving the funding.

Significant progress has been made against the 4 priorities (Economic Opportunity; Bringing Communities Together; Young People; and English as a Second Language) with the key activities outlined in the attached interim Integrated Communities strategy - Belonging Together - which is included as Appendix 1. This was published on the 31st May.

During the summer a series of community conversations are being planned to deepen our understanding about the needs, hopes and fears of our citizens which will form the foundation stone for our final strategy, to be launched in Autumn 2019, following a presentation at the November Scrutiny Committee.

Simultaneously, the initial two year programme for Inclusive Cities, for which Peterborough has been a founder city, and which has informed the development of 'Belonging Together', has come to an end. However, the programme has been extended for a further three years and we are delighted that Peterborough has been invited to participate as part of the second wave of cities taking part.

Being part of both these programmes will provide us with continued extended learning on a national scale about how to continue to develop and grow our City for the future.

4.12 **PLACE**

4.12.1 **Communities Fund**

As part of the funding awarded by the MHCLG to support our work with communities on integration, the ICS team has launched and will have awarded £300k of funds going directly to local community groups by September 2019. Projects which have been funded include small neighbourhood based initiatives, as well as City wide ideas which are being led by community organisations.

4.12.2 **Place Pilots - Orton Longueville**

Orton Longueville, Peterborough, is a prototype area for Think Communities and will focus on 3 themed delivery areas:

Isolation, with specific focus around building a sense of community, place and belonging, including:

- Volunteer workers to support those with health needs
- Programme of Summer events - social activities to bring people together

- Development of a community hub, from which health sessions will be offered by professionals

Youth, offering development opportunities for young people:

- Programme of positive events such as graffiti art workshops, cycling activities etc.
- Offering a volunteer mentoring / buddy scheme to support vulnerable young people
- Offering educational support - life skills classes, career guidance, interview training etc.

Environmental, building a sense of pride in the community:

- Organising community litter picks and clean up events
- Reviewing public land to reallocate ownership to residents so that they can take responsibility for neglected areas.
- Review of public car-parking provision

Additionally, a 'Community Deal' is being developed for the area. This is intended as an informal commitment between the public and services to work together to create a better community, and will act as a test bed for potentially extending this approach across the City.

Residents will lead delivery of the Orton Longueville Prototype, supported by agencies.

4.13 **SYSTEM**

- 4.13.1 Think Communities provides the drive and principles to embed long term change in the way in which the public sector and its partners need to work differently with communities in order to change the relationship between the local authority and its residents.

The City Council will be more explicit about the role it plays in the future, and work with our voluntary sector partners to determine the role which they could play. Peterborough City Council has a long established relationship in supporting the VCS through funding to Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services (PCVS), which supports the building of capacity across the voluntary sector in the City. In Cambridgeshire, a number of different contracts with infrastructure organisations were brought together under one contract in 2016, called Support Cambridgeshire. It is proposed that from August 2020 there are opportunities to bring a consistent approach to the investment in infrastructure organisations across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, to underpin our Think Communities work. Details about how this might work are currently being scoped, but Members views on the approach are sought in the meantime.

5. **CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 In addition to the Community Conversations taking place as part of the Integrated Communities Strategy work in Peterborough (outlined in 4.11), a series of wider events and opportunities for talking to residents about how people might feel about the changes set out in this paper are being planned as part of the development of our Think Communities approach. The Big Think - Summer 2019 Community Conversations - are being planned to run through the summer months, and concluded by September. They will feed into and inform the next stage of the work to deliver transformative change across the public sector as we move the Think Communities work forward.

6. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 The Scrutiny Committee's comments on the achievements and performance of the services will help inform service plan delivery.

Communities are confident, stronger and more resilient through a new relationship with the public sector.

7. **REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 To ensure that communities become more directly involved and responsible for addressing neighbourhood issues and are equipped to become more self-sufficient, collectively supportive

of others and demand on statutory services is reduced or prevented.

To seek Members views on the direction of travel for the future of the City Council's infrastructure contract.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 Do Nothing - not an option as to not provide a universal enablement service would not enable communities to become more resilient.

9. IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Financial Implications

Costs outlined in the report relating to the expanded Think Communities Team, place based pilot and Community Conversations, will be met through external funding agreed by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government. Any additional costs will be sought through developing an invest to save business case as part of the wider Think Communities work for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Committee received a briefing on the progress of the Integrated Communities Strategy in January 2019. In March, second year funding was awarded, bringing the total funds to Peterborough to £1.6m for the City Council and a further £330k for the Job Centre, Peterborough. The delivery period will be until September 2020 due to the delay in receiving the funding.

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9.2 Legal Implications

N/A

9.3 Equalities Implications

N/A as the proposed recommendations are universally relevant

9.4 Rural Implications

Think Communities will be fully inclusive of rural communities in Peterborough

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

10.1 N/A

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Interim Integrated Communities Strategy - Belonging Together