

## **Report of the Director of Place to the meeting of Keighley Area Committee to be held on 20 June 2019**

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### **Subject:**

**Stronger Communities Strategy and Delivery Plan Progress Report**

### **Summary statement:**

**Keighley Area Committee is asked to note the progress of the Stronger Communities Strategy and Delivery Plan, produced by the Stronger Communities Partnership.**

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### **Portfolio:**

**Neighbourhoods & Community Safety**

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Corporate**

## 1. SUMMARY

Keighley Area Committee is asked to note the progress of the Stronger Communities Together Strategy and Delivery Plan.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Stronger Communities Partnership's Strategy and Delivery plan supports delivery of local interventions determined following Bradford District's designation as one of five 'Integrated Communities Pilot Areas'. This follows on from the Government's Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper in March 2018 as a response to the Dame Louise Casey Review. Responsibility for the strategy sits with the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
- 2.2 As a Pilot Area, funding has been provided to research why some activities work and others do not, test new ideas, learn from what is already working and scale up best practice. A key factor is the collection of robust data so activities can be evaluated to help inform future investments. The funding cannot be used to duplicate activities supported through other programmes.
- 2.3 In preparation, MHCLG provided £100,000 to support the development of the Stronger Communities Together Strategy and Delivery Plan. This was informed by a wide network of individuals and organisations from across Bradford District with a track record of working on cohesion and integration initiatives. This was supported by a smaller 'Steering Group' comprised from the network to 'drive' work on the strategy. Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods & Community Safety and Cllr Sinead Engel were represented on the Steering Group.
- 2.4 The final version of the Strategy and Delivery Plan was submitted on the 29 August 2018. A copy of the Strategy and Delivery plan is attached as Appendix A. Funding of £2.75m over two years has been provided by MHCLG as part of a 'test and learn' programme to deliver some of the interventions in the Stronger Communities delivery plan including a £200,000 Innovation Fund.
- 2.5 The Innovation Fund launched on the 28 May and closes 28 June 2019. Individual awards between £2,500 and £5,000 will be offered. Decisions will be made through a Participatory Budget event on the 17 July. The total amount available for this initial round is £50,000. This will allow us to test and learn from evaluating smaller activities with another round being offered in September 2019 and January 2020. Any underspend in our programme will be used to increase the Innovation Fund.
- 2.6 An independent 'Stronger Communities Partnership' Chaired by Bishop Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford has been formed to oversee the Stronger Communities Together strategy and a Delivery Plan for the District. Along with this, a resident sub-group; People Together has been set up which broadly reflects the District's demographics. Keighley members are; Bernadette Gallagher from Worth Valley and Shahida Hamid from Keighley Central. One member (from Keighley East) has had to withdraw due to ill health. We currently have 3 vacancies for Keighley. People Together members will be involved in the Innovation Fund, our Community Values Pledge campaign and Anti-Rumour Strategy work.

- 2.7 The Partner Forum is another sub-group to the Stronger Communities Partnership Board and was launched on the 20 March 2019. This is a vehicle for partners, particularly for small voluntary and community groups who work in this area to build capacity, share best practice, collaborate and be supported. We have 320 organisations registered. We encourage local groups from Keighley to register.
- 2.8 DWP (Department, Work and Pensions) and Linking Network have been directly commissioned by MHCLG. This is the same for other areas to enable a national evaluation to take place.
- 2.9 Linking Network overall has had 159 expressions of interest from primary schools. 77 links have already been made with 134 classes of year 3, 4 and 5 pupils to be linked from April 2019/20 which means 4,020 children will benefit from this experience. 11 expressions of interest have been received from secondary schools. Seven secondary schools and eight classes have been linked. There are 14 links made with 16 classes currently in Keighley. Participating schools are;
- Beckfoot Nessfield with Heaton St Barnabas
  - Stanbury with Dixons Music
  - Riddlesden St Mary's with Sandal
  - Victoria Primary School with Spofforth C of E Primary School
  - Victoria Primary School with Sicklinghall Community Primary School
  - Victoria Primary School with Goldsborough C.E (VC) Primary School
  - Parkwood Primary with Lapage Primary
  - Denholme Primary with Lapage Primary
  - Lees Primary with Atlas Primary
  - Keighley St Andrew's with St James
  - Haworth with Green Lane
  - Oldfield with Green Lane
  - Oakworth and Lilycroft
  - Oxenhope and St Clares
  - Phonenix Special School and Merlin Top Primary
  - Blessed Christopher Wharton Catholic Academy Trust

Six schools are engaged in a Parent Linking programme. These are;

- Our Lady of Victories
  - St Annes
  - St John the Evangelist
  - St Joseph's,
  - St Warburga's
  - St Winefrid's
- 2.10 The Sector-Based Academy in Catering is now under way in Bradford East, which focuses primarily on BAME women. All of our projects are open to all communities. The project has recruited 12 new learners and 30 on a waiting list. We are expanding this to two additional venues, one of which includes KAWAC (Keighley Association Women & Children's Centre).

- 2.11 Street Life launched on the 1 June and will be delivered in three areas, which Keighley West is one. The project will engage with a core group of approximately 12-15 participants in West. These will be developed as community leaders who will work with the project to engage wider circles from within their communities to join specific activities, events and to engage in social action. £500 will be provided to groups to help facilitate activities. Keighley Ward Officers will be engaged in identifying people in the area.
- 2.12 We have recruited for an English Language Service Coordinator. Naheed Hussain will start on the 24 June and will be responsible for overseeing the work of the ESOL Hub. The Hub will concentrate on collecting data of the 24,000 potential learners within the District and map current ESOL provision in order to match need against service delivery. This information will also be used to help drive further funding for ESOL provision. Our data shows that 1667 people who live in Keighley Central cannot speak English or English well. Keighley East has lower numbers at 167 and Keighley West at 74. The Hub will look to assess all those in Keighley to understand what the current barriers are to learning and progressing in ESOL.
- 2.13 Other projects such as Creating Inclusive, Diverse and Equal Workforce will deliver a series of workshops and training sessions on unconscious bias and Real People Honest Talk which aims to improve quality of conversations between different groups and in particular address the 'othering' of communities are in the process of being commissioned.
- 2.14 A report on the Stronger Communities Strategy was presented to Overview and Scrutiny on 13 December, where the following resolution was made:
- (1) *That this Committee requests that progress against the Stronger Communities Strategy Delivery Plan be provided in twelve months time.*
  - (2) *That the progress report include focus on the outcomes of projects being delivered as part of this programme.*
  - (3) *That the report highlight the positive outcomes from "Test and Learn" so that work which has not been successful is not repeated.*

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.2 Consultation was carried out with district residents through three 'whole day' events that took place at City Park (17<sup>th</sup> July), Keighley Town Centre (23<sup>rd</sup> July) and Shipley Town Centre (26<sup>th</sup> July). Individual meetings with specific interest groups also took place and young people were both consulted and involved in the engagement process through the Youth Service. 200 residents participated in Keighley.
- 3.4 The engagement focussed on seven shortlisted ideas, whilst also providing space for people to make their own recommendations. These have been reflected in the design of our campaigns, activities and projects.

- 3.5 Over 630 people were engaged in the three events and accompanying workshops, many giving over an hour and a half of their time to share their thoughts. A copy of the Executive Summary of the engagement report is attached as Appendix B.

#### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

- 4.1 MHCLG has committed financial support to the five 'Integrated Communities Pilot Areas'. Year 1 funding was announced October 2018 of £1.1m, spend allocated but not spent before March 2019 can be carried over to Year 2. Year 2 funding was announced at the end of March 2019. We received £1.65m.
- 4.3 In addition to funding from MHCLG opportunities for match funding have been sought from Creative People and Places which is a £3.65m funding bid to the Arts Council. The programme aims to deliver a step change in cultural engagement and participation and for Bradford's art, arts organisations and audiences to be representative of its rich diversity. Including this a successful bid with Bradford University, Office of Students (OfS), builds on our work with DWP (Department, Work and Pensions) to address unemployment of graduates- not just those having graduated from the University of Bradford.
- 4.4 A portion of funding from MHCLG has been allocated against project support and evaluation. We have now recruited to all posts within the Programme Team. Our Project Support Officers work thematically but will support People Together members through a constituency basis. Barry Cusack is the contact for Keighley and will work closely with Ward Officers and local Councillors. Our Evaluation and Project Improvement Officer will help ensure that local interventions are delivered and monitored so that lessons can be learned from the work that has taken place. Our Programme Administrator is responsible for finance and governance.
- 4.5 The University of Bradford will appoint an Integration Research Fellow. The post will sit under the Head of Research and will be supported by the Professor of Diversity. We envisage this post to be recruited by July 2019. They will lead on research areas identified within the Strategy.

#### **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

- 5.1 A formal governance structure has been developed to support delivery of the strategy. A copy of the governance is attached as Appendix C.
- 5.2 A Programme Lead is responsible a programme management methodology including conventional approaches to managing risks and issues etc.

#### **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

- 6.1 There are no additional legal issues arising from the contents of this report.

#### **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

## **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

- 7.1.1 An equality impact assessment has been carried out that evidences that the proposals within the strategy and delivery plan will make a positive contribution and impact on many protected characteristic groups. There is no perceived detriment from undertaking any of the initiatives within the delivery plan. A copy of the Equality Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix D.

## **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no sustainability implications apparent.

## **7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

There are no greenhouse gas emission impacts apparent.

## **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.4.1 Feelings of safety can act as a barrier to people's willingness to engage in those activities that bring people together at a neighbourhood level, which was a factor raised during the consultation work carried out in support of the local Stronger Communities strategy.
- 7.4.2 The new Stronger Communities Partnership will align some of its work with the Community Safety Partnership and vice versa. The Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods & Community Safety is a member of the Stronger Communities Partnership and also chairs the Community Safety Partnership. Officers also attend and support both partnerships and the relationship between these two, and other key district partnerships will be key to the success of the overall strategy.
- 7.4.2 Many of the initiatives that sit within the Stronger Communities Delivery Plan should also have a positive impact on peoples feeling of safety, particularly where they bring different groups of people together, building tolerance and understanding.

## **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

- 7.5.1 The Human Rights Act covers various rights including: Freedom from torture and inhumane or degrading treatment; right to liberty and security; respect for your private and family life and correspondence; freedom of thought, belief and religion and protection from discrimination in respect of the rights and freedoms.
- 7.5.2 Building understanding, tolerance and respect will help people to live their lives within the freedoms to which they are entitled.

## **7.6 TRADE UNION**

Aspects of the strategy may focus on change in policy and approach, for example in relation to selection and recruitment practice. If any proposals have Council workforce implications consultation will take place with trade unions as appropriate.

## **7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

To be successful, work to build stronger and more integrated communities will need to take place in all wards and communities across the District and therefore the work described in the report has implications for all the Wards in the Keighley Area. Whilst the delivery plan will focus on particular areas within Keighley and across the District, the work funded by MHCLG is about learning what works and what does not work and what is 'scalable'. The 'Stronger Communities strategy' identifies work that is planned over the next five years, but needs to be seen within the context of a wider and more long term strategy.

The Strategy and delivery plan is an evolving document which will be informed by continuous community engagement activities, data, research and emerging need.

## **7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

The work described in this report contributes to a number of priorities within the Keighley Area Committee's Ward Plans.

## **7.9 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

There are no corporate parenting implications apparent.

## **7.10 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

The Council will adopt the role of the Controller. In some aspects of the programme the Council will also be responsible for processing data. The Council including any delivery partners commissioned will receive information management training. Projects will be assessed on the sensitivity of their data and potential data linkage to other services within the programme. This will be supported by appropriate data sharing agreements.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

There are no 'Not for Publication Documents'

## **9. OPTIONS**

9.1 Keighley Area Committee may choose to support and endorse the plan or make recommendations for any changes to the Bradford Stronger Communities Partnership Board.

9.2 Any proposed changes to aspects of the delivery plan that are the subject of grant allocation from MHCLG would need to be agreed by the Stronger Communities Partnership and with MHCLG.

9.3 Keighley Area Committee may determine to seek regular updates on the delivery plan and impact measures applied to certain interventions that are proposed.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 Keighley Area Committee is asked to note the work carried out in the development of the Bradford Stronger Communities Strategy and Delivery Plan by the Stronger Communities Partnership.

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Appendix A  
**Bradford Stronger Communities Strategy & Delivery Plan.**
- 11.2 Appendix B  
**Executive Summary, Community Consultation**  
Report outlines the key findings from three community engagement events that took place in Bradford, Shipley and Keighley.
- 11.3 Appendix C  
**Stronger Communities Partnership Governance Arrangements**  
Structure diagram for the local 'Stronger Communities Partnership'.
- 11.4 Appendix D  
**Equality Impact Assessment.**

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- 12.1 Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper, published 14 March 2018
- 12.2 "It's Your Place – Tell Us What You Think" Report of the Social Kinetic, produced 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018.
- 12.3 Report and minutes of Overview and Scrutiny, 13 December 2018