

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CHAIR'S BRIEFING NOTE

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 27 JUNE 2023

HELD AT THE FROMUS CENTRE, SAXMUNDHAM.

1. Introduction

- All eight Community Partnerships are represented on the Community Partnership Board by their respective Chairs. The meeting agendas and papers can be viewed [HERE](#)
- The agenda was split into two 1-hour sessions:
 - i) Formal CP Board meeting
 - ii) Workshop focused on the UK Shared Prosperity Skills Fund

2. New Chair of the Board

- Caroline Topping introduced herself as the new Chair
- The Board ToRs state that the Board will be chaired by the Leader of ESC, and that the Chair will “Provide a strong sense of purpose and direction to the Board and drive the Board’s annual work programme.”
- Following the elections there have been eight other changes to the ESC representation on the Board (seven new CP Chairs and Portfolio Holder for Communities).

3. Election of Vice Chair for 2023-24

- Lisa Perkins (Director Adastral Park) was re-elected as Vice Chair
- The Board TORs state that a Vice Chair will be elected annually by the members of the CP and will deputise for the Chair in her absence

4. Community Partnership Priorities / Focus on Community Partnerships (Katie Graham and Nicole Rickard)

These items were for information only. Nicole and Katie provided a brief overview of the ambitions for Community Partnerships and the Board, and a reminder of the projects supported to date.

See presentation here: [Community Partnerships update](#)

5. Ease the Squeeze programme update (Nicole Rickard)

The Board received a report which provides a brief update on the programme so far and an overview of the key learning points from the first 12 months of Ease the Squeeze.

See report here: [Ease the Squeeze update](#)

The Board considered the clear and ongoing unmet need around Isolation and Loneliness and agreed that this should be a topic for a CP Board meeting in the near future and that the Social Isolation and Loneliness Task Group should be reformed to scope the topic and potentially develop an outcome proposal for funding from the Board.

Each of the eight CP’s are welcome to put forward a represented on the Task Group.

6. Buzzabout Demand Responsive Transport Service (Nick Khan, Luke Bennett and Mags Lambert)

The Board received a brief update on the Demand Responsive Transport element of the Transport and Travel Programme.

See presentation here: [Transport and Travel Update](#)

The Board then considered the outcome proposal published with the meeting papers. The proposal was to extend the trial to provide a demand responsive transport (DRT) service for residents and visitors in Lound, Blundeston, Somerleyton and Gunton St Peters and the north of Lowestoft. Following an initial pilot, lessons learned have informed the new, lower cost operating model proposed. The introduction of an app for booking journeys, adjusted operating times, and a renewed marketing campaign will help overcome barriers to awareness and access.

See outcome proposal here: [Buzzabout Trial Extension Proposal](#)

The Board allocated £30,000 to extend the pilot until August 2024.

7. Dates of next meetings

The Board confirmed the dates of CP Board meetings for this financial year

- 13 September 2023 at 2.00pm in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House
- 13 December 2023 at 10.00am, Orbis Energy, Lowestoft
- 7 March 2024 at 2.00pm, venue to be confirmed

Also: The provisional **date for the annual forum is 22 March 2024** and the Board would like to see as many CP members there as can make it.

8. UK Shared Prosperity Fund Skills Workshop (Marie Webster-Fitch, Kay Bonning-Schmitt, James Chandler, Michael Gray – SCC)

See report here: [UK Shared Prosperity Fund Report](#)

This workshop gave a full overview of the funding available and sought to prioritise where funding is best spent from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) during 2024/25. The CP Board provides oversight of the UKSPF programme.

The Board received a presentation on the challenges and opportunities that are available within the people and skills investment priority, in order for the Board, plus several additional invitees to prioritise, to help prioritise where funding is best spent from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund during 2024/25.

See presentation here: [UKSPF skills Programme Workshop](#)

The outcomes of the workshop, together with progress on shaping the programme will be shared with the Board.

[Luke Bennett 28.06.23]