CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

COMMITTEE:	Community Committee		
MEETING DATE AND TIME	**21 November 2024** **7.00 pm**	**LOCATION**	**Congleton Town Hall**
REPORT FROM	**Cathy Dean, Communities and Admin Officer**		
AGENDA ITEM **REPORT TITLE**	**16** **Congleton Partnership Update**		
Background	This paper has been prepared to update committee members on the Congleton Partnership activities and direction. Founded in 2006, the Partnership originated from the Congleton Market Town Initiative, evolving significantly since its first constitution in January 2007. The Partnership continues to respond to the needs of the community and support the VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise) sector, leveraging local resources to enhance Congleton.		
Details	Congleton Partnership voted in a new Constitution at their AGM on 10 September 2024 to open up Congleton Partnership membership to support Congleton's VCFSE sector. The Partnership will be managed by a board known as the Oversight Group (replacing the Executive Board) which shall meet every month or as business dictates, plus an AGM. The Oversight Group shall appraise projects, approve funding and be responsible for monitoring projects. The Accountable Body (Congleton Town Council) reserves the ultimate right to sanction or refuse any proposal endorsed by the Oversight Group. The group shall have 9 voting members: • 1 x Chair • 1 x Vice-Chair • 1 x representative of the local business community • 2 x elected Congleton Town Council Members • Plus 4 other positions representing other Congleton Interests decided by the democratic process. The Chief Officer from Congleton Town Council will attend as Ex Officio. The Partnership Officer will provide administration support. **The Goal** Create a forum in which different members of the community can come together to generate & share ideas. Including our local business community.		

A way of information sharing, providing an accessible means of communication and consensus-building that anyone can tune into which improves Congleton for its residents.

The first community event to promote and attract new members to the Partnership is 'Meet the Funders Event' (Tuesday 19th Nov, 4-6 pm). Objectives of this event:

- Increase the knowledge in the community of funding opportunities
- Attract new ideas for projects & enable people to take action
- Increase the knowledge of Congleton Partnership & the work it does
- Bring together community stakeholders – Funders, Businesses, Voluntary, and Local Authorities.
- Attract new volunteers and project leads to the Partnership

At the time of writing the paper, we have 10 funders attending and 61 attendees booked.

Other Activities Planned:

Changing Lives Buddy & Befriending scheme contract has been renewed for 24/25, we are looking to expand the offering with a warm welcome group so we can offer face-to-face befriending. Since the scheme began (in the 3rd year) they have received 62 referrals, Matched 54 and recruited 104 volunteers in the Congleton area to date. There are 36 active clients being supported in Congleton at present.

Free IT sessions with Ability Net - Tuesday 19th 2-3 pm at Bromley Farm Welcome hub and Tuesday 17th 2-3 pm at the Old Saw Mill.

Christmas Tea Dance is booked for the 4th of December 2 pm- 4 pm, Andrew Bell is providing the entertainment. We have invited local care homes and are canvasing West Heath bungalows.

Health and Wellbeing Fayre - 18th March 2025, Congleton Town Hall.

Minibus Driver Training – Successful application to Flourish fund, awarded £8200 for driver training to increase our pool of volunteer drivers for Partnership buses (D1 category is a license requirement to drive 17-seater.)

Financial Implications	None. Work is delivered within the reserved funds for Congleton Partnership.
Environmental Implications	Considered as part of each piece of work.
Inclusivity Diversity Impact	The Congleton Partnership uses communication tools to meet different audiences and provides events/activities that try to reach isolated members of our community.
Decision Required	That Councillors note this report.