

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	11 November 2020
Subject:	Asset Based Community Development Policy		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods		
Wards Affected:	all		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	1. Asset Based Community Development Policy		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

For Cabinet to review and agree the Asset Based Community Development Policy.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that the Asset Based Community Development Policy be adopted.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is about growing sustainable communities, building connections between people that live in the area and empowering people to take action on things that are important to them – which will often be different to what statutory/public sector agencies perceive to be important.
- 3.2 ABCD is not about setting up new services or groups, although people may come together informally as a result of building connections, but it can contribute to or complement the priorities of statutory partners. This is because building stronger communities supports people's feeling of safety, well-being and health more broadly.
- 3.3 The council's commitment to ABCD is written into the council plan (2017-2021) with an aspiration to become a Centre of Excellence. This policy takes us a step closer to this ambition.
- 3.4 Although we recognise that there might be a financial case for this way of working, our commitment to ABCD is based on the belief that people live more fulfilling lives when they have the power to shape their own outcomes and change things that matter to them. For communities to thrive, they need to be given the tools and resources to find solutions that work for them and for the places where they live

- 3.5 Gloucester is receiving national recognition for its successes in community building and asset-based approach to service delivery. The [Centre for Public Impact](#) visited the City in March to learn about our activities and what potential it holds for the future of local government. We hosted a visit from the 'Key Cities' in June 2019 and have been approached about taking an active part in a new 'portfolio for communities' and take a proactive part in engagement with government departments.
- 3.6 Gloucester City has been working successfully as part of the 'Upstream Collaborative' run by Nesta (www.nesta.org.uk), a well-known and respected innovation foundation working in the public and private sectors. The Upstream Collaborative is a network to support Local Government innovators to share, accelerate and evaluate new operating models that work upstream of social problems, creating the conditions from which good outcomes are more likely to emerge. It brings together a group of senior, strategic leaders from pioneering councils from across the country to share their experiences and learn from each other as part of a collaborative network and during the course of the program we have been sharing our experience and expertise of strengths-based working.
- 3.7 In 2019 Gloucester City Council set up the Gloucester Community Building Collective to support asset based work in communities. That work is delivered outside of the Council whereas this policy is focused on the work of those from within the council.
- 3.8 One of our challenges in mainstreaming this approach is where Officers and Councillors have been unsure how to proceed when dealing with specific issues in the community. The aim is for this policy to give them guidance to allow them to make those judgements more easily and in a more consistent way.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

- 4.1 This policy supports the vision for Asset Based Community Development in Gloucester.

5.0 Environmental Implications

- 5.1 N/A

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 Not having a policy is an option but this would not give officers and councillors the guidance they may need when considering this approach in their work and hence is likely to create a piecemeal approach to strengths based working, rather than the consistency we are working towards.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 Gloucester City Council has made a huge amount of progress in developing this approach. This policy is the next step in supporting Officers and Councillors to adopt this practice where it is possible and enables them to make judgements as to where they can take this approach and where it may not be appropriate.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 8.1 The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and any new learning from this approach will be considered in those reviews.

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 The policy sets out our approach to Asset Based Community Development, there are no specific financial implications as a result of the policy.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. The Council has a general power of competence (Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011) to do anything that individuals generally may do.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 11.1 The risks associated with the policy are low. It gives guidance to officers to support collaborative working and decision making when undertaking work in and with communities.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 12.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 Working in an asset based or strengths based was is expected to have a positive impact on community safety in the City and research suggests that this will be the case.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

- 14.1 None.

Background Documents: ABCD Policy