

## **Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2017**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Rawlins - In the Chair

Councillors Austin-Behan, Cookson, Cooley, Evans, Fletcher- Hackwood, Grimshaw and Hassan

Councillor S Murphy, Statutory Deputy Leader

Councillor E Newman, Lord Mayor

Councillor Appleby, Ward Councillor for Moston

Councillor Ilyas, Ward Councillor for Fallowfield

Jacque Allen, Wythenshawe Community Housing Group

Paul Edwards, Moston Meadows Residents Association

Rebecca Friel - Odd Arts

Paula Nolan, Loreto Sixth Form

#### **Apologies:**

Councillors Knowles, Marshall and Sharif Mahamed

#### **CESC/17/30            Minutes**

#### **Decision**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2017 as a correct record.

#### **CESC/17/31            Our Manchester Programme Update**

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Growth and Neighbourhoods) which provided an update on the development of the Our Manchester approach at a local level, including how the Council was engaging with communities and developing work in local areas. The Director of Neighbourhoods introduced the report across its main themes.

The Statutory Deputy Leader reported that Our Manchester represented a fundamental change in how the Council engaged and worked with local people and voluntary organisations. She outlined how the new way of funding the voluntary and community sector linked in with the Our Manchester approach. She also informed the Committee about the Our Manchester Experience, an interactive training for staff and councillors, which would demonstrate the Our Manchester behaviours and principles.

The Committee welcomed Jacque Allen from the Wythenshawe Community Housing Group. She reported that her organisation was pleased to be part of this new approach as it was practical in nature and focused on listening to what mattered most to residents. She reported that Benchill had been chosen as a pilot area and that a strengths-based conversation had taken place with residents to find out what mattered to them. She informed Members that three key issues had been identified

– improving the local environment and green spaces, for example, tackling litter problems, helping people to get to know their neighbours and, for young people, being able to use off-road bikes safely. She reported that three groups had been set up to address these issues and outlined the work that had taken place, for example, community events, litter-picking by local school children and young people making a video educating other young people how to use off-ride bikes safely and considerately. She advised that this work had been led by the local community, who had bid for funding themselves, where necessary.

The Chair thanked Ms Allen for attending. She asked whether the people involved were aware that this was part of the Our Manchester approach. Ms Allen advised that those who were heavily involved were aware of this and some had undertaken training on the strengths-based approach. She advised that those who had only been involved in individual events would be able to see that something had changed but might not be specifically aware of Our Manchester.

The Committee discussed how Our Manchester could be promoted. The Director of Neighbourhoods advised that Our Manchester was more complex to brand than some other initiatives and that the Council was first focusing on promoting it to its own workforce. She advised that partner organisations were also using the Our Manchester branding and that the branding was being used when working with residents; however, she advised that residents needed to see the Our Manchester approach in practice to fully understand it. Therefore, the branding needed to accompany work with residents and it would not be useful to promote it independently without this context. She also outlined how officers in her service reviewed their work to assess whether they were working in an Our Manchester way. She advised that Our Manchester would not replace initiatives like Age Friendly Manchester (AFM), which was an established brand in its own right, but it was recognised that AFM already adopted an Our Manchester approach to its work.

In response to a Member's question, Ms Allen outlined how residents who were at risk of losing their tenancy were supported.

The Committee discussed how the implementation of the Our Manchester approach could be measured. The Chair recommended that the six Scrutiny Chairs consider how reports could identify which of the 64 "we will" commitments within the Our Manchester Strategy it was addressing, in order to assist Members in scrutinising how well they were being achieved. She also asked that officers ensure that their reports were written in clear language.

The Chair recommended that the Committee consider whether it would be useful to hold one of its meetings at an external venue to make it easier for local residents, such as those who were involved in the Benchill pilot, to attend.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Neighbourhoods outlined how the Our Manchester approach would support work relating to equalities and protected characteristics and advised that the Equalities Team were involved in the Our Manchester Steering Group.

In response to a Member's question on how an Our Manchester approach could be taken to community recovery, the Statutory Deputy Leader reported that, following the Arena attack, it was even more important to talk to people, including the families directly affected by the attack and communities where tensions had increased following the attack.

## Decisions

1. To recommend that the six Scrutiny Chairs consider how reports can identify which of the 64 "we will" commitments within the Our Manchester Strategy it is addressing, to assist Members in scrutinising how well they are being achieved.
2. To consider whether it would be useful to hold one of the Committee's meetings at an external venue.

## **CESC/17/32            Community Cohesion – Approach to Community Recovery**

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Growth and Neighbourhoods) which provided an overview of the approach to community recovery following the Manchester Arena attack. The Manchester Prevent Co-ordinator introduced the report across its main themes.

The Committee welcomed Paul Edwards from Moston Meadows Residents Association, Rebecca Friel from Odd Arts and Paula Nolan from Loreto Sixth Form.

Paula Nolan reported that Loreto College had a diverse demographic of students and, while students from different communities got on well together, the College had decided to reinforce this through getting involved in the Radequal Project. She outlined how students, working alongside the Tim Parry Jonathan Ball Foundation for Peace, had identified the three biggest challenges as Islamophobia, homophobia and racism and had created a short film to challenge these views, supplemented with teaching resources, which had been disseminated to other schools and colleges. She informed the Committee about the impact this work had had on the students involved, including increasing their confidence to challenge prejudice when they encountered it.

Rebecca Friel outlined how Odd Arts had used a grant from Radequal to fund a performance on how vulnerable, isolated young people were radicalised or groomed for child sexual exploitation or gang involvement, how to recognise the early signs of this and how to intervene. She advised that this had been taken to a range of settings, including a Children's Secure Unit and Pupil Referral Units and that her organisation had subsequently received Home Office funding for this to be delivered to more students and teachers across Manchester. She also informed Members about another programme her organisation was delivering to give a voice to young men in an area of south Manchester which was associated with gangs. She reported that, as the next stage of this, workshops would be starting in October for a showcase called "Journey to Success" focusing on how these young men could overcome the barriers they faced and that this would be shown at the Contact Theatre in December. The Chair requested that Members be invited to see this showcase, to which Ms Friel agreed.

The Strategic Lead Neighbourhoods (North) outlined work that had taken place in Moston, supported by the Tim Parry Jonathan Ball Foundation for Peace, to address tensions between different communities in the area, focusing on shared values. She reported that it had been difficult and had presented some serious challenges but that the progress made and engagement with residents had been very positive. She drew Members' attention to the information on this work in section 6 and appendix 1 of the report and informed Members that this new approach was now embedded into the Council's day-to-day work in Moston.

Paul Edwards praised the work that had been done in Moston, recognising the role of Council officers and a number of councillors. He reported that residents with issues had previously not known where to go with their concerns but were now able to work together with the Council to find solutions. He advised that residents in other parts of Moston were now being encouraged to set up their own residents' associations.

The Ward Councillor for Moston reported that a lot of work had gone into this and praised those involved. She emphasised the importance of continuing to encourage people to come together and taking the time to listen to people, using an Our Manchester approach.

A Member asked how this differed from previous attempts to engage with local communities and what had made it more successful. Mr Edwards reported that previously issues raised by residents' groups were never addressed but now Ward Councillors were proactive and committed to working with local residents to get things done. The Ward Councillor for Moston advised that there were local residents who wanted to make a difference to their area and the Council had worked to gain their trust and empower them to do this. The Strategic Lead Neighbourhoods (North) advised that the Council was learning from previous experiences but that it still needed to improve on sharing this good practice across the city.

The Chair thanked the guests for their contribution. She recommended that the Council explore how the lessons learnt from the work in Moston could be shared and how this approach could be taken forward across the city and that the Council be clearer on how this fitted in with the Our Manchester approach.

In response to a Member's question, the Statutory Deputy Leader recognised the impact of the Arena attack on local communities, including those communities in which there had been a number of related police raids. She reported that the Council had worked to reassure the communities affected, build relationships with them and address some of the practical problems this had raised.

Rebecca Friel informed Members that most young people her organisation surveyed reported feeling proud, more positive and united as a community following the Arena attack and the city's response to it; however, she reported that young people from one particular community who already felt stereotyped had been negatively affected by the attack. The Statutory Deputy Leader emphasised the role of Ward Councillors in addressing these issues.

The Committee discussed the Prevent counter-terrorism strategy and the Casey Review into opportunity and integration. A Member advised that it was important to note that there was a range of different views on the Prevent Strategy and the Casey Review and that Radequal was a key part of Manchester's response to Prevent. The Statutory Deputy Leader reported that the Mayor of Greater Manchester had requested a review of how the Prevent Strategy was delivered across Greater Manchester which she was contributing to.

The Committee welcomed Councillor E Newman (the Lord Mayor), who had proposed the Council motion on Mutual Respect and Community Cohesion in January 2016. Councillor Newman reported that his theme for his year as Lord Mayor was community cohesion and that this had become even more important following the Arena attack. He expressed concern at the increase in hate crime following the attack but also emphasised the positive response to the attack, including the way local people had helped those affected. He reported that work that had taken place before the attack had built links between different civic and faith leaders and that these established links had helped them to work together after the attack. He recognised the response of the Muslim community and other communities across the city in condemning the attack and the use of violence and stated that he was proud of how Manchester and how its diverse communities had responded.

### **Decision**

To recommend that the Council explore how the lessons learnt from the work in Moston can be shared and how this approach can be taken forward across the city and that the Council be clearer on how this fits in with the Our Manchester approach.

### **CESC/17/33            Hate Crime and Third Party Reporting Centres Task and Finish Group – Terms of Reference and Work Programme**

The Committee received a report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which set out the proposed terms of reference and work programme for the Hate Crime and Third Party Reporting Centres Task and Finish Group. The Committee was invited to agree or amend the terms of reference and work programme and to agree the membership of the Task and Finish Group.

A Member requested that the Task and Finish Group consider why hate incidents against women were not classed as a hate crime. Another Member requested that the Task and Finish Group look at what type of hate crime was reported at each geographical location. The Chair agreed to these amendments.

The Committee agreed to appoint Councillors Austin-Behan, Cookson, Fletcher-Hackwood, Hassan, Ilyas and Rawlins to the Task and Finish Group and to discuss outside of the meeting who to appoint as the Chair.

### **Decisions**

1. To agree the terms of reference and work programme, subject to the above amendments.

2. To appoint Councillors Austin-Behan, Cookson, Fletcher-Hackwood, Hassan, Ilyas and Rawlins to the Task and Finish Group

### **CESC/17/34            Overview Report**

A report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit was submitted. The overview report contained a list of key decisions yet to be taken within the Committee's remit, responses to previous recommendations and the Committee's work programme, which the Committee was asked to approve.

A Member requested that Noah Mellor from Buzz be invited to the Committee when the Age Friendly Manchester Strategy report was considered, to which the Chair agreed.

A Member who was also the Lead Member for Gay Men informed Members about a recent delegation from Lewisham Council which had met with him, the Council's Equalities Team and the LGBT Foundation to look at how Manchester supported different equality strands, particularly the LGBT community.

### **Decision**

To approve the work programme, subject to the above amendment.