

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2018

Present:

Councillor Rawlins- In the Chair

Councillors Austin-Behan [CESC/18/09- CESC/18/14], Cookson, Evans, Hassan, Ilyas, Sharif Mahamed and Siddiqi

Councillor S Murphy, Statutory Deputy Leader

Councillor N Murphy, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure

Councillor Flanagan, Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources and

Ward Councillor for Miles Platting and Newton Heath

Councillor Ollerhead, Chair of the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee

Elaine Unegbu, Age Friendly Manchester Older People's Board

Brian Goodman, Buzz

Noah Mellor, Buzz

Apologies:

Councillors Fletcher-Hackwood and Marshall

CESC/18/08 Minutes

Decisions

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2018 as a correct record.

CESC/18/09 Age-Friendly Manchester

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Lead (Ageing) which provided an update on Manchester's Age-Friendly Strategy, its key priorities and the long-term approach to tackling loneliness.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included:

- Developing age-friendly neighbourhoods;
- Developing age-friendly services; and
- Promoting age equality.

Some of the key points which arose from the Committee's discussion were:

- What progress was being made in the development of the LGBT affirmative extra care housing scheme;
- How the best practice which was taking place in some areas could be spread across the city; and
- How perceptions of older people could be improved.

The Age-Friendly Programme Lead informed Members that the process to develop an LGBT affirmative extra care housing scheme was ongoing. He advised that a working group had been established which was identifying potential sites and that officers were working with the LGBT Foundation and the Terence Higgins Trust on how it was delivered. He outlined work taking place to spread good practice across the city. He advised that older people were often portrayed as a burden which did not reflect the role they played in the life of the city. He reported that the Council was working with its Communications Team to improve the way older people were portrayed. He informed the Committee that a Festival of Ageing was taking place in Manchester in July 2018, with events involving and driven by older people. Elaine Unegbu informed Members about the contribution that older people could make to community groups, if they were given the confidence to do so.

Decisions

1. To receive a report on the impact of the first annual Festival of Ageing, after it has taken place in July 2018, including its impact in promoting positive perceptions of older people.
2. To receive a report on extra care housing options at a future meeting.

CESC/18/10 Updated Financial Strategy and Directorate Budget and Business Plans 2018-2020

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive and the City Treasurer which provided Members with an update on the Council's financial position and set out the next steps in the budget process, including scrutiny of the draft Budget proposals and Directorate Budget and Business Plan reports and accompanying Delivery Plans by this Committee.

The Committee received and considered the Growth and Neighbourhoods Budget and Business Planning 2018 to 2020 and the Growth and Neighbourhoods Delivery Plan 2018 to 2020.

The Committee had been invited to comment on these reports prior to their submission to the Executive on 7 February 2018.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were:-

- How factors outside the Council's control impacted on its budget;
- Whether the expected savings would be made from the new leisure contract;
- That the Committee would also be scrutinising the Equality Impact Assessments for all the Council's budget proposals; and
- That the Our Manchester approach provided a long-term plan for working smarter with limited Council resources.

The Executive Member for Finance and Human Resources outlined some of the challenges affecting the Council's finances, including the pressures on adult social care, the impact of the roll-out of Universal Credit and funding work to address homelessness, as they had not received additional funding from the national

government to tackle this problem. The Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure confirmed that the Council was on track to make the expected savings from the new leisure contract, reporting that the Council was making these savings by working differently and continuing to invest in its leisure services.

Decision

To endorse the recommendation to the Executive that:

Executive is recommended to approve the final proposals in this report and that these are included in the budget to Council.

CESC/18/11 Refreshed Budget and Business Plans – Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs)

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People, Policy and Reform) which provided an overview of the role of EIAs in the Council's budget and business planning process for 2018/2020. It outlined the context of why the Council undertook EIAs and how this process was managed to support good quality analysis which informed decision making. It also described how the Council used Equality Delivery Plans as part of this process to highlight achievements on equality in the preceding year, as well as stating its commitments to equality activity and analysis over the remaining two years of this budget cycle.

Officers referred to the main points and themes within the report, which included:

- Equality analysis and business planning;
- Quality assurance, governance and accountability;
- Schedule of EIAs; and
- Developing the framework.

The Chair highlighted the timescales for the completion of the EIAs detailed within the report and recommended that the Committee consider the EIAs as they became available. She also informed Members that training on EIAs could be arranged for them, if they felt it would be useful.

Decision

To add the EIAs detailed in the report to the Committee's work programme and to consider them as and when they are completed.

CESC/18/12 Our Manchester Voluntary Sector Funding Programme

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Growth and Neighbourhoods), Executive Director for Strategic Commissioning and Director of Adult Social Care Services (DASS) which included information on the process undertaken for the first round of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) funding. It also included information on the next stages, including support for organisations which were not awarded funding and the timescale for equality impact assessments,

and how the process could be improved in future to better engage with Ward Councillors.

The Statutory Deputy Leader introduced the report, stating that it included the information that the Committee had requested at its meeting on 4 January 2018 and highlighting that the process for the first round of VCS funding was not yet complete.

Some of the key points which arose from the Committee's discussion were:

- How the organisations who were awarded funding would be monitored;
- How information could be better communicated to Ward Councillors and how they could be better involved in the process;
- Concern that a number of established Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) voluntary organisations had been unsuccessful and that there was not an even geographical spread of organisations awarded funding;
- Concern that some organisations had been awarded very large payments and that it would be preferable to have a cap on the total amount awarded and award smaller amounts to more organisations;
- What the next steps were in relation to organisations which had not been successful in obtaining funding; and
- When the next round of funding applications would take place.

The Ward Councillor for Miles Platting and Newton Heath additionally raised the following points:

- Concern about the transparency of the process, including that some VCS organisations which had been involved in the co-design process had then been awarded funding and that he had not received information from officers which he had requested; and
- The impact in his ward of VCS organisations no longer being funded.

The Statutory Deputy Leader informed Members that some organisations provided services across ward boundaries while others operated across the whole city, for example, providing services to people with a protected characteristic. She acknowledged that better communication was needed with Councillors and also the importance of the Equality Impact Assessments which would be carried out. The Strategic Commissioning Manager informed Members that the next round of funding applications would be in three years' time but that there might be some targeted funding available before then. She reported that funded organisations were required to provide monitoring data which was proportionate to the amount of funding they were receiving. The Programme Lead informed Members that, if any funded organisations were not delivering as expected, funding could be withdrawn but that initially the Council would try to support them to remedy the problem, with clear deadlines. The Strategic Commissioning Manager explained that five different funding streams had been combined into this one fund and that some organisations had received funding from three or four of these streams previously. She advised that limiting the amount these organisations could be awarded under the scheme to a much lower amount could have de-stabilised the VCS sector. The Statutory Deputy Leader informed Members that the Co-design Group had not been involved in the assessment of applications and that no members of the Assessment Panel had

received any of the funding. The Programme Lead outlined the next steps for unsuccessful organisations, informing Members that his team had already undertaken visits to many affected organisations, although some did not want to take part at present, and that the organisations had been asked to complete an impact assessment.

Decisions

1. To request that a group of Members work with officers to review the process before the next round of funding applications, to include the issues raised including consideration of maximum grant caps and the involvement of local Members.
2. To request that the equality analysis of the outcome of the first round of the new process be considered at the Committee's March 2018 meeting.
3. To request that the decommissioning impact assessment template that VCS groups have been asked to complete be circulated to Committee Members.
4. To request a breakdown of other funding available to the VCS.
5. To email other Members to encourage them to check that affected VCS groups within their ward are taking up the offer of liaison visits.

[Councillor Cookson declared a personal interest as a friend was the CEO of the Albert Kennedy Trust.]

[Councillor S Murphy declared a personal interest as a Trustee of the Manchester Action on Street Health.]

CESC/18/13 Final Report of the Hate Crime and Third Party Reporting Centres (TPRCs) Task and Finish Group

The Committee received a report of the Hate Crime and TPRCs Task and Finish Group which presented the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group.

Some of the key points which arose from the Committee's discussion were:

- Activities taking place for Hate Crime Awareness Week the following week and that Councillors should be encouraged to tweet about it using the hashtag #westandtogether; and
- That if any Members had suggestions for organisations which could become TPRCs they should contact the Community Safety Lead.

The Executive Member for Neighbourhoods welcomed the recommendations and thanked Members of the Task and Finish Group for their work.

Decision

To note the findings of the Task and Finish Group and endorse the recommendations as set out in the report.

CESC/18/14 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.

Decision

To approve the work programme.