

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2018

Present:

Councillor Rawlins- In the Chair

Councillors Cookson, Evans, Fletcher-Hackwood, Hassan, Ilyas [CESC/18/17 - CESC/18/18], Sharif Mahamed and Siddiqi

Councillor S Murphy, Statutory Deputy Leader

Councillor Rahman, Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure

Apologies:

Councillors Austin-Behan, Grimshaw and Marshall

CESC/18/15 Minutes

Decisions

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2018 as a correct record.

CESC/18/16 Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Funding – Equality Impact Assessments

The Committee received an oral report from the Statutory Deputy Leader and the Programme Lead which provided an update on progress following the announcement of the outcome of the first round of funding applications for the Our Manchester VCS Fund. The Statutory Deputy Leader informed Members she would also circulate a written note to all Members after the meeting.

The main points and themes included:

- That the Programme Board had agreed a one-year extension of funding for VCS groups which had previously been funded but had been unsuccessful in the recent funding round;
- That an additional round of targeted funding might be arranged; and
- That officers had met with the VCS groups which had not received funding, that lessons were being learnt from the first funding round and that an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was being carried out.

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

- Following the decision at the 1 February 2018 meeting that a group of Members should work with officers to review the process, that this should take the form of a Subgroup;
- The importance of communication with and involvement of Ward Councillors in the process; and
- What the ongoing work with VCS groups, both those which were successful in the first funding round and those which were not, would involve.

The Statutory Deputy Leader suggested that the Chairs of both this Committee and the Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee be involved in developing the Terms of Reference for the Subgroup. She also suggested that, in the meantime, if officers needed a steer on any of this work, they should consult with the Chairs of both Committees, to ensure that they were clear on what Members wanted. The Programme Lead described how his team would work with VCS organisations, collectively agreeing a development plan, and involving other people and organisations, as appropriate, depending on the theme of the group's work. He advised that this work would be aligned not only with the aims of the Programme but also with any other relevant strategies, for example, the Carers' Strategy. He advised that his team was reviewing its Communication Strategy, including improving communication with Members.

Decisions

1. To receive an update report at the Committee's 24 May 2018 meeting, to include the Equality Impact Assessments from the first round of funding.
2. To request that the written note referred to be circulated to all Members of the Council.

[Councillor Cookson declared a personal interest as an unpaid member of the board of directors for Community Arts Northwest.]

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

CESC/18/17 Equality Objectives 2016 – 2020

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (People, Policy and Reform) which provided an update on the progress being made by the Council and its partners against the organisation's equality objectives 2016 - 2020. It also highlighted the role of the Equality Delivery Planning process in ensuring that equality considerations, and in particular the need to undertake Equality Impact Assessments, were embedded within the Council's core business. It also described the Council's ongoing commitment to the Equality Framework for Local Government, with an update and indication of next steps in preparation for reaccreditation later this year.

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

- Knowing Manchester Better, including the Our Manchester Survey;
- Improving Life Chances;
- Celebrating Our Diversity;
- Aligning the equality objectives with Our Manchester;
- Equality Delivery Plans (EDP) and Equality Impact Assessments (EIA); and
- The Equality Framework for Local Government.

Officers also delivered a presentation on 'Celebrating Our Diversity: The Last 12 Months' which celebrated the positive contribution that Manchester's diverse communities made to the City's economic and social life through a calendar of

annual events. In addition, Equality Champions for Revenue and Benefits and Children's Services outlined some of the work taking place in their Directorates.

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

- How a range of sources could be used to gather data on equality in Manchester;
- The importance of tackling barriers to participation in events, for example, providing food suitable for different diets, providing non-alcoholic drinks and ensuring that any printed materials were available in large print and braille;
- Whether more could be done to support different groups to obtain funding for new events, rather than continuing to fund the same organisations; and
- To request a report on languages, including how the city celebrates the range of languages spoken in Manchester.

The Head of Organisation Development reported that data was being gathered from a range of teams and then analysed, including identifying gaps in data. Following this, he advised, the Equalities Team would work with Council teams and partners to address these gaps. The Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure reported that last year a number of groups had submitted bids for funding to hold new events but none of them had met the criteria; however, he advised, one of the bids had potential so the Council had worked with this group to build capacity and this year, they had successfully obtained funding to run an event. He reported that, again, this year none of the proposed new events had met the criteria but the Council was working with a number of the groups which had potential to build their capacity so they were in a stronger position to bid next year. He offered to provide details of these groups to Members. He advised that the Council was also supporting established organisations to become more self-sufficient so that they were not reliant on Council funding for their events. He also informed Members about a proposed new event, provisionally called the Manchester People's Festival, which would include elements of a range of events and celebrate all cultures, as well as giving people a further opportunity to see the entries from the Manchester Day Parade. He informed Members that International Language Day had been celebrated on 21 February, with events held in Manchester libraries. He also reported that, following the Council's successful bid for Manchester to become a UNESCO City of Literature, an independent group of different partners, led by the Universities, was being set up to arrange events throughout the year to celebrate and preserve language. The Statutory Deputy Leader informed Members about the work of Manchester University's Multilingual Manchester.

Decisions

1. To request a report on languages, including how the city celebrates the range of languages spoken in Manchester and the work of Manchester University's Multilingual Manchester.
2. To consider how information on available funding and its criteria can be better communicated to Members and to request that Member development include how Members can support and work with VCS groups in their ward, for example, to advise them on how can they access funding for events.

3. To request that the Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure and the Statutory Deputy Leader provide a briefing note on the UNESCO City of Literature group, including any opportunities for Member involvement, and that this be circulated to all Members of the Council.

[Councillor Cookson declared a personal interest as an unpaid member of the board of directors for Community Arts Northwest.]

CESC/18/18 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 noted that this was Councillor Rawlins last meeting as Chair and thanked her for all her hard work. The Chair thanked the Committee Members and officers for their support.

Decision

To approve the work programme.