

**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: Resources and Governance Scrutiny Committee – 12 October 2017

Subject: Governance and Working arrangements of the 'We Love Manchester' Emergency Fund

Report of: City Solicitor and City Treasurer

Summary

To provide the committee with a summary of the governance arrangements and gift making approach of the We Love Manchester Emergency Fund.

Recommendations

To note the contents of the report.

Wards Affected: Not applicable

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

None.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 On 22 May 2017 a suicide bomber detonated an improvised explosive device in the foyer of the Manchester Arena. The attack took place after an Ariana Grande concert which approximately 14,000 people attended, comprising a mainly teenage audience accompanied by parents and family members. 22 people lost their lives as a result of the attack and at least 245 people are known to have been physically injured, many sustaining life-changing injuries.
- 1.2 A number of appeals were launched very soon after the attack (including those by the Manchester Evening News, We Love Manchester Emergency fund with the British Red Cross, and hundreds of individual fundraisers on Just Giving). These appeals were immediately inundated by donations.

2.0 We Love Manchester Emergency Fund

- 2.1 The We Love Manchester Emergency Fund ('the Fund') was established on 30 May 2017 to coordinate, administer and distribute the various monies donated in response to the attack. The objects of the fund are as follows -
- a) To relieve sickness or disability whether physical or mental of victims of the disaster (means the bombing at Manchester Arena on 22 May 2017) and their dependents;
 - b) To relieve financial need among the victims of the disaster, including families and dependents of those killed or injured; and
 - c) To support such other charitable purposes as the trustees shall consider appropriate.
- 2.2 The Fund is a separate independent legal entity which has been registered with the Charity Commission accordingly (charity number 1173260). The Fund currently has 9 trustees -
- Councillor Sue Murphy (Chair)
 - Joanne Roney, Chief Executive, Manchester City Council
 - Carol Culley, City Treasurer
 - Jon Rouse, GM Health and Social Care
 - Ian Hopkins, Chief Constable GMP
 - Rob Irvine, Editor MEN
 - Rachel Downey, Private Sector
 - Sir Howard Bernstein
 - Elizabeth Treacy, City Solicitor
 - Edith Conn, British Red Cross
 - Les Mosco, Victim Support
- 2.3 The Fund has a Chief Operating Officer (Vicky Rosin) who is in turn assisted by a Principal Support Officer. The fund has a website, www.manchesteremergencyfund.com and a twitter account.

2.4 Approximately £18m has been donated to the fund to date. The fund has received from Government a sum equal to the VAT from the One Love ticket costs. The fund is continuing to explore with Government whether they will make a donation to the fund to assist with the costs of administering the fund.

3.0 Approach to gift giving

3.1 The Trustees of the Fund adopted a phased approach to the making of grants, based on a model developed by the London Bombing Relief Charitable Fund ('LBRCF') in response to the terrorist attack in London on 7 July 2005. The LBRCF was among the winners of the Charity Awards 2006 in recognition of its exceptional achievement in management, with particular reference to its fast, effective reaction to the disaster.

3.2 The trustees of the LBRCF initially prioritised the bereaved and those most seriously affected by the London bombings. This strategy was supported by advice taken from expert opinion and by market research undertaken on behalf of the LBRCF. Accordingly, in the first two Phases of gift making, grants were made to the bereaved and those who were hospitalised – initially for one night, then subsequently to those that had been in hospital for a week or more. In Phase 2 and all subsequent phases to the end of August 2006 the bereaved received further grants, with additional payments to recognise dependent children. Grants were made to the most affected survivors according to a number of simple criteria relating to the severity and permanence of the injuries and the amount of time that people were incapacitated and unable to work or study after the attack. In Phase 3 the LBRCF made grants to those who, whilst not physically injured, had been unable to work from immediately after the bombings until later in the calendar year. Phase 4 was made possible by a donation of £2.5m from the Home Office and grants were made available to the beneficiaries in each category. A final Phase 5 was also planned for those most seriously injured as part of the fund's closure plans. In addition to the above, the LBRCF made discretionary grants to individuals who just missed the criteria or who brought special circumstances to the Grant Committee's attention.

3.3 Following the above model of phased gift making, the Trustees of the WLMEF have made the following gifts to date -

- On 1 June £1m was given to the bereaved families and people who had been hospitalised. In particular, bereaved families received £20,000, those who had been in hospital for 7 days or longer received £10,000 and those who had been hospitalised overnight received £3,500.
- On 13 June, a further £4.4m was distributed to the bereaved families and those who had to stay in hospital seven days or longer (bereaved families received an additional £50,000 and people who had been in hospital seven days or longer also received an additional £50,000).
- On 15 August a further £3.9m was given to the bereaved families.

- On 13 September a further £908,000 was released to those with life changing injuries, those that were hospitalised for less than a week and are still unable to work or study because of their physical injuries.
- 3.4 The Trustees have received guidance from senior clinicians to determine the category of gift a recipient is given.
- 3.5 The next step for the Trustees is to determine how to approach those who have suffered psychological injury. This will be considered by Trustees at their next meeting in October 2017.
- 3.6 The Trustees wanted to ensure that gifts to those injured were distributed fairly and quickly and as of the end of September 2017 just short of £10m of the fund had been committed to gifts to those affected. The rest of the funds will be distributed in phases. This approach will allow the trustees to help people who are suffering from long-term or delayed effects of the attack or have preferred to apply later on.