

Community Initiatives FPG Meeting Minutes

Time and Place: 15:00-16:30, Thursday 18th July 2019, 1P05, City Hall, BS1 5TR

Present: Ronnie Brown, Toby Howkins, Sandra Meadows, Sado Jirde, Tom Renhard, Joanna Holmes, Diane Bunyan, Tim Temple, Fiona Gilmour

In attendance: Taylor Meagher

Apologies: Steve Sayers, Penny Germon, Ryan Munn, Di Robinson,

1. Welcome & apologies

2. Minutes and actions of previous meeting

- Action: Ryan to eventually produce visual representation of the Proposed Theory of Change.
- Action: Ryan to discuss further with Penny re BIF impact on metrics. **Penny not in attendance, she will contact Ryan shortly.**
- Action: Penny to discuss with one fund provider re how BIF connects up with community initiatives. **Not in attendance, will update at next meeting.**
- Action: To build a broader understanding how short term work fits with community aspirations and how medium term work can be used to have a broader understanding of the ecosystem of the City.
- Ryan to draft a brief with Sado, Di, and Diane and bring back to the next FPG. Carried forward. **Being done.**

3. Declarations of interest

Declaration from Tom already added to register.

4. Testing the ToC

Ryan - The Board has approved the ToC and it is now in the hands of the FPG to determine how to test and finalise this over the next 3-6 months.

- Couldn't see correlation between increased number of people doing things and increased outcomes.
- It conflates people owning disposable assets with having a lead.
- Suggests we take out the reference to the number "Increased # of community led/owned orgs creating root-cause solutions (covers 1?)" it's the process more than the numbers, instead say "increase in engagement and participation"
- Didn't we say we would mention a change in how public bodies work "Policy changes to enable work? (Evidence of changed relationships?)"

- It has proven difficult to get a change of policy around CATs. We have had to find a new way of working. I think what is there is enough. Move it into 'wider impact' box to cause transformational change.

Change: Increased social capital, impact, local economic resilience and community cohesion in the City's least advantaged geographic areas and those equalities communities.

Group approved ToC with changes.

Action: Taylor to circulate the ToC as a final document after changes made.

5. ToR update

The Board has approved the ToR.

6. Updated roles and responsibilities

The Board has approved this document, and we will be updating all the FPGs ToR's to reflect this. The largest change from the original is that we have to make it clear that members can raise awareness of the existence of the fund, but **cannot** promote a specific financial product as better than any other product on the market. Any discussion re: terms, rates, etc. must be with a licensed representative of BBRC.

The EI FPG has already raised the question of whether they are going to have sight of pipeline projects in advance of them getting funding, and have requested a suggestion go to the Board that they are able to see the pipeline in advance, but with all relevant financial details stripped. The purpose of this would be for them to see and comment on any social/environmental impact, using their resources to improve the quality of projects. I responded by saying that we would bring the question to the next Board meeting. One thing to keep in mind here is that the FCA is clear that non-regulated entities cannot engage in financial promotion, but only publish guidelines rather than rules. Therefore, I cannot provide any more clarity than the above. If anyone has any questions re: what they can/cannot say, then I suggest they get in touch with Taylor or myself.

7. Updates on outcomes and metrics framework

This work with Happy City is almost complete and will be circulated to FPG members via email once it is. I anticipate in the next two weeks.

8. City Gathering update

We now have £10m after confirming the BCC match funding. Sandra answered questions from attendees on what City Funds was and blended finance. We really need clarity on what grant services we provide, it's not just grant to get investment - it can be grant only.

Action: Taylor to get a clear document together to outline exactly what the funds are for and where they will go. What does the £250K do, how do we access it? Can we give grant only? This needs to be clear. How do we work with different funders? What the funds are and aren't.

Action: Taylor to connect Peter and Toby to engage with SME not just big business.

9. Update on researcher brief

I would like to change tactics on this, as BBRC cannot be driving forward this activity into the future. What would be a helpful discussion today would be for the group to determine if/how they want to gain greater insight into the ToC and proposed activities. It is important that the group owns the ToC, and has research to back this up, but I don't propose to know the best way forward for this. The NCGH group didn't have any research in existence that could guide them, so they commissioned some primary research through the SWDTP. This seemed sensible, so I have promoted that path. However, this may not be the way that the group wishes to proceed. They have been commissioned by the Board to advise on a ToC and therefore advise on what types of projects should be invested in. I want to ensure that the group has maximum flexibility and ownership on achieving this goal. Attached in the papers are the ET group's research proposal, as reference and example. But this isn't the only way of going about things, and I think it would be a good outcome of this meeting if the FPG could decide on a way forward and nominate some representatives to lead that.

Action: Taylor to work with Joanna, Diane B, Tom, and Sandra and bring the document back for approval in 1 month.

10. Discussing potential project ideas

Sandra would like ideas of particular groups, ideas, organisations that we can use to start a document of ideas, we can then discuss with each other (internally only) to see what fits with us, what we agree on before we are ready to actually approach people. Examples of organisations that are doing the right thing, but lack support, capacity, or strategic thinking and could use us – we need to pull these out.

Action: Everyone to send ideas to Taylor

Doesn't think the document from NCGH reflects systems change. Ronnie noted that many aren't socially investable projects, they are grants. We should ask the researcher to have examples of projects around the world, and effects and examples of systems change.

11. AOB

- All the Board meeting minutes are on the website. The FPG minutes need to be put online.
- Andrews Estate Agents have an interesting programme so Tim will connect them to Taylor.

12. Next meeting date

Tuesday 27th August, 1pm, City Hall