

Community Initiatives FPG Meeting Minutes

Time and Place: Thursday 4th April 2019, 09:00-10:30, 1P05, City Hall, BS1 5TR

Present: Taylor Meagher, Fiona Gilmour, Ryan Munn, Diane Bunyan, Joanna Holmes, Sado Jirde, Diane Robinson, Ed Rowberry, Toby Howkins, Tim Temple, Steve Sayers, Ronnie Brown

Apologies: Sandra Meadows, Tom Renhard

1. Welcome & apologies

Apologies from Sandra so Ed stood in as temporary Chair.

2. Minutes and actions from last meeting

3. Declarations of interest

Action: Taylor to send out a blank declaration form for members to complete.

4. Updates from last meeting

The Community Initiatives work came out of the Mayor's Asset Group. Power to Change has agreed to fund £172K towards this and the Mayor's Asset Group have hired someone to take this forward. This money comes with direct funding towards BBRC, Locality, Quartet, and project management/support for social impact measurement work. BBRC will be managing the funds.

There was discussion on aligned funding and what this means. If priorities and outcomes are clear, many organisations can get funding and be aligned to the One City Approach. We are building capacity for the city and communities. We need to de-centralise the approach and stretch farther into communities in other areas of Bristol.

BSWN have lots of data on what the city needs, and City Funds needs wider consultation especially on capacity building so the investment is aligned to reality.

Action: Di to create a diagram of the structure of the One City Approach/City Funds and how it all fits together. Including place based/ communities of interest.

5. Report on impact workshop

Approximately 25 people attended the session. They went through the City Funds Theory of Change, discussed what is meant by 'transformational impact' including characteristics and qualities, and assessed a long list of data sets (60+ indicators for each group) to decide what the priorities could be. Some examples agreed were:

- Increase capacity for community led organisations to grow
- Increase voluntary expert support within communities

- Increase financial and non-financial networks
- Reduce community isolation
- Increase affordable housing

We have an overall City Funds Theory of Change, and each group will need to own theirs.

The workshop created a slight debate between the City Funds and work on the One City Approach and how we work together effectively in practice. We are looking into this.

The intention of the framework is not to be restrictive; we are setting a direction of travel. It is telling organisations what is transformational, and can they work towards this. The public need to be consulted on the framework so they have ownership. BSWN, Voscur, and Locality should share the impacts and measurements with their networks.

We need to educate people and clearly explain the long term transformational impact. The metrics may be a learning curve and that's okay.

There is confusion in the community around the Bristol Impact fund and that money feeding into City Funds. People need to know what City Funds is – quickly. When Bristol Impact fund ends, there will be a lot of pressure on organisations and for the sector in general.

If an applicant isn't suitable for City Funds, we can connect them meaningfully with our partner organisations on a case by case basis.

Action: Ed to speak to Sandra about Voscur's input for networking and community consultation.

Action: Ryan to bring back the final metrics list to the next meeting.

6. Discussion on transformational change

We have intentionally not defined 'transformational change' but have agreed on indicators. We should use real life anonymised examples of what transformational change looks like.

Action: Taylor to circulate the thinking on transformational change for people to provide comments on.

Action: Ed/Di to talk to Penny on the Impact Fund and what the link is with City Funds.

7. Discussion on revised Terms of Reference

Concern that there may be an ethical issue with City Funds only offering one investment service through BBRC. BBRC is the legal advisor to the City Funds Limited Partnership and from an FCA perspective they are legally required to ensure they are not selling a product that isn't needed. Anyone in the group should be sending projects through to any funding service they find appropriate.

Action: Ed to check with our Burges Salmon lawyers on the ethical legalities around the groups sending investment projects through to BBRC.

Action: Taylor to add an agenda item to next FPG meeting regarding investment services and the ethical implications.

The group read through the City Funds ToC. Di would like to facilitate a conversation on “What will we see if the ToC works?” and bring it back to the FPG.

Action: Di, Fe, Joanna, Toby, Diane, and Sado to work on the Terms of Reference outcomes.

8. Update on projects

Projects item being deferred to the next meeting.

9. Update on research

We are working with the South West Doctoral Training Programme to get a PhD candidate. The ideal candidate will create a detailed report and Theory of Change.

Action: Ryan to draft a brief with Sado, Di, and Diane and bring back to the next FPG.

10. AOB

Ed would like feedback from the group on where we are so far and any concerns:

Direction/aspiration is excellent and aligns with work we have been trying to do in the sector. Key issue is that we have to maintain communication/consultation with organisations and the community; it needs to focus on the reality on the ground. We are in a bubble.

A lot of organisations will be falling behind. We need practical examples of ‘transformational change’. This isn’t just a change of approach for voluntary; it is a big change for partners as well. We need work on engaging with them.

We are at the critical stage of getting the details right. We need to see the Councils role in this.

Feels “outside of the bubble” which gives a different perspective. This feels enormous and exciting. Concern on the change in administration, ensuring this is embedded in the city in case there is a change of Mayor.

Aspiration is great. Once we have done the transformational change we will be able to communicate externally. This will ensure more feedback and focussed consultation. Big outcome would be to ensure we see long term growth in the sector and mobilising the community, not being reliant on the funds.

FAQ page on the website would be useful.

We need to start nailing down the right stuff and everyone having the same narrative.

Agreement with everyone else. We need to be bold, confident, being honest in the communication and being very cautious about using terms like co-design that may be read



differently by different people. Would like the group to be humble, we are contributing towards a better future, not just the answer to it. We aren't sucking in the funding from everywhere and then send it where they see fit. A diverse funding system is great.

Communications and stories piece is needed for people to understand.

Action: Di to frame the AOB section into a work plan/ risk assessment.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 8th May from 14:30-16:00.