

City Funds Economic Inclusion FPG Meeting Minutes

Time and Place: 09:00-10:30, Friday 12th July 2019, Lord Mayor's Reception Room, City Hall, BS1 5TR

Present: Anna Dent (Chair), Ryan Munn, Poku Osei, David Barclay, David Jepson, Nick Flaherty, Chris Hackett, Anya Mulcahy-Bowman, Michelle Virgo (on behalf of Dirk)

Apologies: Kevin Slocombe, Ronnie Brown, Sue Turner, Taylor Meagher, Dirk Rohwedder, Hannah Young, Samantha Lee, Ed Rowberry,

1. Apologies

2. Minutes and actions from last meeting

Action: Ryan - Our research needs to include data on employers supporting needs of employees. **Complete.**

Action: The Board should have a session with FPG Chairs about how we are working and including disadvantaged people/communities. What is the FPGs role in all this? **Revisit in September.**

Action: Update from Sam forwarded into the next meeting. **Sam not in attendance, action for Anna to contact Sam to check progress**

Action: Hannah to share documents with Taylor to distribute. **Hannah not in attendance, action for Anna to contact Hannah to check progress**

Action – Taylor to put David B's paper on the website re refugee and migrant communities.

Action: Ryan to send around information on the researcher hosting. **Complete.**

3. Declarations of interest

4. Update since last meeting including City Gathering

- All positive on City Gathering. We are expecting an article on City Funds to be in the Financial Times on Monday, we are working with Special Features Editor on that. This was off the back of Marvin's trip to the US.
- This is good for the profile and gives an awareness and understanding of what City Funds is. There is a Comms plan being worked on.
- There are opportunities to promote economic inclusion.

Action: Ryan to circulate Financial Times article

Action – Future Agenda Item – City Funds launch and comms plan – to discuss and identify opportunities for FPG to support and amplify

- Earlier in week there was an event at Bristol University. It was interesting looking at community wealth building. There was a conscious decision to spend for local businesses. Medium to long term support to anchor it in the city.
- BCC is updating its social policy and procurement and aligning it. There is also work in group community led housing around land transfers and social value. The next step is to tackle that and put pressure on other organisations to adopt the model. Possibly for the City Office to look into. They are giving monetary value to compare. If there is value in a more deprived neighbourhood then there is higher value for activity. Conversations are being had with BBRC about how they can support this goal.
- Small and / or community organisations and businesses find it difficult to understand and access council procurement opportunities – some way to get key people to have those conversations would be good.
- When the Local Authority had more capacity our procurement team did go out to small businesses to increase their capacity to get into our supply chain. There may be a position there for someone to step in and take up the role.
- I suspect the issues described here is more across the board. There are two worlds of 'small business' it depends on where you are from to how you are treated as a business. The business support eco system is something they could do a better job of. Making businesses more equipped to take advantage of opportunities. Gradually getting business support.
- Anna is having a chat with Ed later in the month so will raise this and discuss it as an agenda item for the Economic Group Meeting.

5. Update on investment committee and its role

Generally the Investment Committee is dealing with social investment, including blended finance, but not any early-stage grant funding. We are currently looking for an interim Chair of the investment committee. The function of that group will be to assess and approve social investment. BBRC is in the process of recruiting an Investment Manager, close to announcing the post-holder. The Investment Manager and RM will be using the outcomes that this group decides to filter and find organisations that need and require social investments. There has been some shifting in terms of what FPGs are legally allowed to do in terms of FCA guidance, in terms of promoting the City Funds, and bringing organisations through an investment pipeline. Legal advice has been given on structuring the decision-making process, and investment decisions. FPG members cannot advise organisations specifically to apply for City Funds investments above any other investments. They can talk generally about City Funds and recommend that organisations look into CF in a broad way. Any detailed discussions or negotiations cannot be carried out by FPG members. FPG members also cannot make official decisions on the detail of investments, or award investment funds: this must be done by the investment committee. Decisions will then be recommended to NCM Ltd in Edinburgh. NCM were chosen as they know the market, it will be interim period for first number of years.

DB has left the meeting.

7. FPG roles and responsibilities

All have read document circulated by Ryan.

- Given the clarification of legal position on decision-making etc, there needed to be some amendments to the FPG roles and responsibilities to reflect this.
- Queried what FPG members should do if asked for information/ guidance by potential bidders to City funds
- There will be a web interface, but if an enquiry is specific they can e-mail BBRC. Over the next 6 months certain queries will come up which we will chart while we go. Sue Turner from Quartet was putting a place-based giving strategy in place, if we raise the money this group will act as a grants panel for that pot of funding. Another function would be early stage capacity building grants that will work alongside the work Sue is doing, buying time for early stage organisations to transition into something more sustainable and potentially investable. This group will be well positioned to minimise risk. Business sensitive information cannot be shared with the FPG.
- When the process is clearer, and an organisation is coming to City Funds, where in that process is the role of FPG? Risk that investments will drift from FPG priorities if we have no sight at all of organisations' bids and plans. Also a risk that opportunities are missed across different priority groups e.g. to build good jobs into an environmental project.

Action – Ryan to give thoughts on the whole investment process and where it will be appropriate for FPGs to have sight of and provide feedback on potential investable projects.

All are content with the document.

6. Progress on individual research work streams

- It is for the group to decide how we move forward and pull together separate streams into a research brief. This group can own how to understand and nail down its theory of change from the draft put together. We want to get to a point where everyone is more assured with areas we are targeting.
- In terms of small business support, there are communities excluded from the mainstream process, also we felt there was generic research on barriers on small business development. Delivery mechanisms were focussing on specific things and cuts have meant that support came in early phases rather than financing. Some are being forced into small business approach as they have no other option. There needs to be more research done before we can present on what we are working on, maybe pilot research rather than studies.
- We want clear articulation on what the priority is, not generic but more detailed and nuanced relating to communities and areas. Will we be at a point in September where can be coherent?

- Initial support is what is lacking. We don't want to block people out of this process, there has been an interesting discussion of people who are outside who find debt off-putting and don't feel comfortable with a loan.

Action – Anya & David J to agree a date in September to discuss a framework of those elements that can be refined, to bring a clear position to the FPG Sept meeting

Action – Nick to draw up a research brief for the doctoral training partnership based on template from Ryan, discuss before next meeting, due within a month. Anna and Nick to discuss

8. Research and metrics update

Ryan shared working draft of the metrics indicators being developed by Happy City. Happy City is helping to create a framework for outcomes that we want to create. Indicators are tracked already, it is open data. The red areas are gaps in data and we are expecting an update today producing fewer gaps. He will then circulate this updated document. We are ahead of the curve because of this document and seeing these gaps in advance.

Conversations are happening at City Office level as to whether these metrics could be adopted city-wide, they're positive but undecided, and we can then take the proof of concept to funders. The gaps are there because of a combination of an unclear concept and also they haven't tried to measure before. This is a learning process, and we can ask: do they reflect, can we improve and are these the ones we want to prioritise through the testing phase?

9. AOB

[REDACTED]

Nick is happy to have that conversation, regarding what they want to do and how they reach communities.

Meeting Closed – Next Meeting 15th August 2019.

Action – Taylor to do a poll to check attendee numbers for August meeting