

City Funds Economic Inclusion FPG Meeting Minutes

Time and Place: Tuesday 30th April 2019, 15:30-17:00, Lady Mayor's Parlour, City Hall

Present: Anna Dent, Anya Mulcahy-Bowman, Chris Hackett, David Barclay, Dirk Rohwedder, Hannah Young, Kevin Slocombe, Poku Osei, Ryan Munn, Sam Lee, Fin Boyter
Stephen Le Fanu (Minute Taker)

Apologies: Taylor Meagher, Nick Flaherty, Ronnie Brown, David Jepson

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Minutes and actions from last meeting**

Agreed - no changes.

- 3. Declarations of interest**

- 4. Theory of Change and priority outcomes**

One of the conditions for BSC's investment into City Funds is a monitoring of metrics and outcomes. Work has already been done on the Theory of Change (ToC) at a Board level, but a ToC needs to be created for each FPG. The 'EI ToC covering note' gives an overview of the documents involved in the creation of these ToCs.

Action: Ryan will circulate work to ensure that comments have all been taken on board.

EI ToC should feed into the overall City Funds ToC. Ryan walked through the suggested framework to ensure that the group is in agreement and matches expectations. Di Robinson and metrics specialists will be taken on to work this through. This will form a draft policy that will be used in the first 100-day plan for CF. The point was raised that there should be enough points for the FPG to input into it - there will be another chance when specialists come on board.

Action: All to feedback comments on the framework.

Challenges (e.g. economic exclusion) reflect the ToR for the FPG. The point was made that the wording of the second point should be altered to include supporting economic development in underserved communities and broadened out to include support for start-ups/enterprise development wording. The early stage outcomes are reflected in the document, some of which relate to the FPG specifically and some apply across all of the FPGs.

Action: Ryan: ToC language to reflect increased number of people in the community leading enterprises rather than the number of organisations operating in an area.

The outcomes in the EI ToC have been aligned more with the overall CF aims – the aims in red are CF wide but only happen if the EI FPG is working well.

The outcomes marked in green should be seen as options to start with but not inclusive and they will be determined by a panel of experts e.g. a decrease in unemployment is not a good measure and some better options were suggested such as average earnings combined with earnings ratio, number

of people on the living wage, diversifying employment etc. could be better at showing an economic improvement.

We need to differentiate between city level metrics and initiative level measure which city level might not pick up on.

There was a discussion on whether eliminating jobs below the living wage should be a metric. The Mayor has issued a call for Bristol to become the first living wage city. Could this be set as an aspiration but not be reflected in the metrics, as it would be potentially difficult to achieve solely through City Funds.

The point was made that we do not want to be only driven by metrics, especially qualitative metrics, as it can become burdensome, but that they are useful for evaluation.

There was a discussion over the different roles of policy and metrics. For instance, should paying the living wage be a tick box for applying to City Funds? We don't want this to be a tick box exercise – we want to co-create the reporting with individual projects. We want our metrics to be broad calls to action to create economic inclusion. This should be an internal view of how we measure and understand but also a public facing idea of how to address the challenge. There should be an ongoing co-creating process where projects work with metrics experts to design measurement. On the other side, metrics still need to have enough focus to give confidence to draw in investment. In some ways, the evaluation process should be different to other grant metrics because CF is trying to reach areas that have not previously been reached. This can be used to push innovation in the metrics sector.

Innovation is important but economic inclusion is the fundamental aim of this group.

5. Progress on individual work streams

David J has organised meetings to take forward his workstream – to address next meeting.

Fin and Anna had a conference call with Centre for Cities to discuss research on increased automation and related near-future changes to the employment market and systems both nationally and Bristol-specific - to help inform the research brief. We have quite a lot of information from Rebecca's previous work and we have a reasonable amount of data at a Bristol level already.

Research brief could have three parts:

- 1) Bringing together all existing information
- 2) Looking into sources of information that we have previously not tapped into
- 3) Looking for areas that we want to investigate but do not have sources of data for

This shouldn't be too big a piece of work and could be good for a doctoral student. The Centre for Progressive Policy and the Centre for Cities have also offered to work on this.

Sam has been looking at NEETs and barriers to employment. Currently talking to contacts in WECA and will welcome contacts from others in the group. Destination data from BCC might be useful, but it cannot give a long-term picture, just a snapshot. The Creative Youth Network may have information.

The question was raised as to whether the scope of the research is looking at the BCC borders or the area in which Bristol residents work. Anna - ideally we would look at both but this difficult. Identifying skills gap is the most important research outcome but this is also difficult.

Action: Kevin to connect Sam with CPP and TUC to look at this.

It is important to look at which ages are being considered as NEETs. Chris pointed Sam towards contacts in BCC. Poku suggested Anna contact Matt Griffiths from BCC.

World Economic Forum could be a useful place to look at research on skills of the future as Bristol is a fairly typical *high tech* city.

Action: Poku to send contact details for Matt Griffiths to Anna.

6. Research update

Ryan circulated the Research brief for the Environmental Transformation FPG. Ryan and Fin have spoken with Rob about creating a research brief which will pull together secondary research and carry out primary research. Rob thinks that this could be a good opportunity for a PhD student. This would need an organizational sponsor, likely from the FPG, to lead this process. The output will be CF-wide. Research is already funded apart from expenses. FPG's research work led by Sam and Anna will be a source of data for this piece of research.

There is currently no research being done on business support, but this might be addressed by David J, with a specific focus on migrants and refugees. Would he be able to flush out the barriers to non-migrants as well? There are currently pieces of work being talked about which do not address the headline objectives. The current work should identify gaps to meet these headlines which can be filled in. Where does ACH/Engine Shed research sit in this framework? Need to link up with David J and see where it does sit.

Action: Fin/Ryan to clarify with David J his work and if there are any gaps from this.

Action: Ryan/Hannah to cross-reference research with what funders are looking for.

7. Launch of City Funds

Launch will take place at the City Gathering on July 5th followed by a press event. The event will be led by the Board but a member of each FPG should explain the role of the FPG.

There will be a break out session, based on the six One City Themes with a view to investigating how City Funds can support each of these themes.

8. General discussion following updates

9. AOB

A chair should be elected from within the group so that it is not being chaired by a Governing Board member (Kevin).

Action: All to think about nominating a member of the FPG as Chair. To be approved at the next FPG.

Action: Taylor to circulate a date for the next meeting.

Action: Taylor to organise a social/fun event for after the next FPG meeting.