

Date: 24th November 2017

Subject: Greater Manchester Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Accord

Report of: Councillor Kieran Quinn, Portfolio Lead for Investment Strategy and Finance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update on the development of an Accord between the GM Mayor and Combined Authority and the GM Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise.

The Accord sets out the principles of a new relationship of trust based on our shared vision for the city region as highlighted in the refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy which will help to unlock the full potential of our citizens and communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To endorse the GM Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Accord and arrangements as detailed in the report and comment on the proposed way forward.
2. To note the funding arrangements detailed in paragraph 4.4.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) sets out the ambition to make Greater Manchester one of the best places in the world. It is a strategy for everyone in Greater Manchester – residents, the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, businesses, and civic leaders. But the vision it sets out will only be achieved through new approaches which are shaped and driven by our communities themselves.
- 1.2 The GMS highlights the need to take a proactive approach to creating new partnerships and encouraging more of the diverse voices across Greater Manchester to have an active role in shaping and challenging policy.
- 1.3 As part of this approach, the VCSE sector was consulted on the development of the GMS and its Implementation Plan through the leadership of Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO) - the voluntary, community and social enterprise support organisation covering the city region. GMCVO will also will sign the final document as co-owner of the shared strategy alongside GMCA and the Local enterprise Partnership.
- 1.4 Building on this platform, officers are now working in partnership with the sector on the development of a GM VCSE Accord which will set out new, improved standards of working with voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations

2. GM AND THE VCSE SECTOR

- 2.1 GM has already put in place a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the GM Health and Social Care Partnership and VCSE organisations which transforms the relationship of the local VCSE sector with health and social care devolution.
- 2.2 However, the GMS sets out the ambition to extend this into a new relationship with the VCSE sector across a broad range of activities, building on the work already underway particularly in areas such as crime and disorder; sport, culture and leisure; skills, employment and enterprise; health and social care; housing and transport; environment and carbon reduction; poverty reduction; inclusive growth and governance.
- 2.3 This also reflects the ambitions of the VCSE sector as set out in the “Manifesto for a New Relationship” which was drafted by GMCVO earlier in 2017 in consultation with VCSE groups across Greater Manchester.
- 2.4 The Manifesto illustrates the sector’s approach to agreeing a set of principles for the role of the sector in the city region, building on the strength of our existing relationships and the opportunity presented by devolution. It also highlights what the sector can offer in terms of skills, resource and commitment and how it could work with the GM Mayor and Combined Authority to achieve our shared outcomes.

- 2.5 In parallel to these developments, the GM Social Value policy is due to be refreshed. The Social Value policy sets out priorities to achieve a GM wide approach to securing additional social, economic and environmental outcomes through procurement including building the capacity and sustainability of the VCSE.
- 2.6 To this end, officers of the GMCA Strategy Team have engaged with the sector on the development of a GM VCSE Accord which will set out new, improved standards of working with voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations

3. PRINCIPLES OF THE GM VCSE ACCORD

- 3.1 An initial meeting to explore the scope of a GM VCSE Accord was convened by GMCVO at their offices in late August 2017 including representatives of the sector from across the city region.
- 3.2 The meeting generated a shared understanding of the principles that would inform an agreement along with some specific actions to be taken forward. It was proposed that:
- i. The GM VCSE Accord sets out a new agreement between the Greater Manchester Mayor and Combined Authority and the VCSE sector based on a relationship of trust
 - ii. This relationship reflects the principles of the VCSE Manifesto and is underpinned by our shared vision for the city region as set out in the GMS - to make Greater Manchester one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old
 - iii. The Accord will act as a framework for the delivery of this vision. The VCSE sector will be engaged in the development, governance and delivery of the GMS including relevant consultation and co-design
 - iv. Delivery of the Accord will be progressed through the development of a VCSE Action Plan to explore in greater detail how the sector can work with public and private sector partners to help realise the GM vision.
 - v. Development of the Action Plan will commence with immediate opportunities such as ensuring VCSE representation in GM governance; refreshing the GM Social Value policy, developing a new GM Social Enterprise policy and exploring a GM Volunteering strategy.
 - vi. The partnership will explore an investment approach supporting strategic VCSE capacity reflecting GMS priorities which extends beyond annual contracting and covers core costs not just project funding
 - vii. The Accord will be a living document to be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it remains relevant and fit for purpose

- viii. The agreement will be signed by the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the VCSE sector's chosen representatives.

4. DRAFT ACCORD AND VCSE STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

- 4.1 The Accord has been drafted in consultation with GMCVO – see below. The draft reflects the principles and proposals outlined above along with a number of further issues identified from subsequent discussion with the sector.
- 4.2 The Accord was launched at the GMCO's Annual General Meeting on 7th November where it was signed by the Mayor and representatives of the VCSE sector prior to approval by GMCA at the November meeting.
- 4.3 Firstly, it has been suggested that delivery of the Accord and development of a GM VCSE Action Plan would require additional capacity beyond the level of resource currently available in the sector.
- 4.4 Following discussion with the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, it is therefore proposed that an initial £50,000 of capacity building funding is provided from budgets currently used to support crime and disorder initiatives. The GMCA will be kept updated in relation to this funding, amounts required and met by the Police Crime Commission budgets and how funding would be met in future years
- 4.5 The funding will support the development of the GM VCSE Action Plan and the delivery of the ambitions of the Accord.
- 4.6 Secondly, one of the key commitments from the Mayor and GMCA will be to develop an investment approach based on long-term funding arrangements which extend beyond annual contracting and cover core costs not just project funding.
- 4.7 As a first step in developing this approach, it is proposed that a GM VCSE Investment Fund is established to support strategic VCSE capacity in delivering the GMS vision.
- 4.8 The Investment Fund will bring together existing Mayoral funding streams providing grant funding to VCSE groups which have yet to agree allocations for future financial years.
- 4.9 It is proposed that the Investment Fund brings together funding streams currently operating as the Active Citizens Fund, the Youth Aspiration Fund and the Youth Aspiration Sustainability Fund to provide strategic funding grants of at least three years' duration from April 2018.

- 4.10 It is important to note that existing grants awarded from each of these funds will not be affected.
- 4.11 The Investment Fund will focus on building and sustaining VCSE strategic capacity to deliver our shared vision as set out in the GMS, supporting the priorities that will help make Greater Manchester one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old.
- 4.12 In particular, the fund will reflect the recognition in the Safe and Strong Communities priority that local VCSE sector organisations are key pillars of our neighbourhoods, providing the local infrastructure and community assets to support local people and communities to work together.
- 4.13 This approach will underpin the ‘relationship of trust’ that is central to the new agreement and will help to unlock the full potential of the sector, our citizens and communities.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The detailed eligibility criteria and application process for the Investment Fund will be developed in partnership with the VCSE sector and the ten districts.
- 5.2 Further reports on these development will be brought back to the GMCA.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Recommendations appear at the start of this report.

GREATER MANCHESTER VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE ACCORD

Greater Manchester is home to 16,000 voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations working to improve the lives of citizens. It is active across every aspect of growth and reform including crime and disorder; sport, culture and leisure; skills, employment and enterprise; health and social care; housing and transport; environment and carbon reduction; poverty reduction; inclusive growth and governance.

This GM VCSE Accord sets out a new agreement between the Greater Manchester Mayor and Combined Authority and the VCSE sector based on a relationship of trust. Our shared vision for the city-region is set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy Our People: Our Place - to make Greater Manchester one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old.

This Accord sets out a framework for the delivery of that shared vision and our commitment to reduce inequalities. We recognize this will only be achieved through new ways of working which are shaped and driven by our communities themselves with VCSE groups treated as equal partners with the public and private sectors. This is essential if we are to truly unlock the full potential of our citizens and communities.

In signing this GM VCSE Accord, the **GREATER MANCHESTER VCSE SECTOR** offers:-

- A commitment to the vision of a city-region in which all residents are valued and included
- The ability to engage, inform, consult, support and mobilise residents and communities, including those not reached by politicians or the public sector
- To share its wide and deep knowledge of the opportunities and barriers experienced by communities of locality, identity and experience
- To use its expertise in social innovation and learning from trialling new approaches to find new solutions to complex problems
- To bring independent resources including volunteers and funding which can be aligned with public and private sector resources to achieve common goals
- To work with partners to develop a GM VCSE Action Plan to help realise the GMS vision starting with supporting the refresh of the GM Social Value Policy; developing a GM Social Enterprise Strategy; and developing a GM Volunteering Strategy.

In signing this GM VCSE Accord, the **GREATER MANCHESTER MAYOR and COMBINED AUTHORITY** offer:-

- To champion new, improved standards of working with voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations
- To take a proactive approach to creating new partnerships and encouraging the diverse voices across Greater Manchester to have an active role in shaping and challenging policy
- To engage the VCSE sector in the development, governance and delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy including relevant consultation and co-design
- To develop an investment approach based on long-term, core funding to support strategic VCSE capacity in delivering the GMS vision
- A clear prioritization of VCSE organisations based in Greater Manchester
- To provide initial capacity building funding to support the development and delivery of the GM VCSE Action Plan

The agreement will run for an initial period of five years commencing 27th November 2017. The Accord will be a living document to be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it remains relevant and fit for purpose.