



## Bradford & District Community Economic VCS Forum

### Notes of the meeting Tuesday 26 May 2020

#### 10.00 to 11.30 am via Zoom

**Present:** Tony Dylak (Royds) (Co-chair); Nasim Qureshi (INCIC) (Co-Chair), Martin Carter (Manningham Project), Mary Dowson (BCB), Janet Ford CNet), Jenny Pratt (CNet), Kate Jowett (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner), Shafiq Ahmed (Carlisle Business Centre (CLLD)), Wendy Spencer (Airedale Enterprise), David Wilford (A Head of the Curve CIC), Liz Hemsley (Prospects), Katherine Wyatt (Carlisle Business Centre), Alex Spragg (Better Start Bradford), David Gagen (Airedale Enterprise), Amanda Peters (WYCAS), Racheal Memmott (Specialist Autism Services), James Craig (Baildon Friends of the Earth), Adele Adams (Better Place Capital), Soo Nevison (Community Action), Ian Brewer (Credit Union), David Robison (Capital of Cycling), Furaha Mussanzi (Millside Centre), Jon Royle (The Bridge Project), Mark Clayton (CBMDC), Ian Westlake (CBMDC), James Saunders (CBMDC)

**In attendance:** Wendy Collins (CNet) (minutes)

**Apologies:** Mark Nicholson (Equality Together)

Item	Details	Action by
1.	<b>Welcome, introductions and apologies</b>	<b>Chair (TD)</b>
2.	<p><b>Economic Strategy, overview and impact of Covid-19– Mark Clayton, Policy Officer, Bradford Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking at business and workforce resilience through the Covid-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• At the end of April an online survey was launched to find out how businesses are coping through the crisis. Nearly 500 businesses responded in 3 days and the survey is still live.</li> <li>• The results showed that the crisis is having a massive impact: most business have either closed or are trading at a reduced level. Turnover is down massively. Retail, hospitality and leisure have been the hardest hit, as well as the self-employed and sole traders.</li> <li>• Less than 20% of businesses in Bradford are considered to be in a stable position. 1 in 8 businesses fear they won't last the year.</li> <li>• 1 in 10 businesses have moved their resources over to volunteering as part of the emergency response.</li> <li>• 84% of businesses have used furlough scheme and at one point only 1 in 4 workers were going into work.</li> <li>• 5% of all employees across the district might be made redundant. Mark feels that 20,000 job losses is a best case scenario for Bradford now. People most likely to lose jobs are already living in the most deprived areas. This situation will amplify the disparities that already existed.</li> <li>• The long terms effects of the crisis could be: more home working, diversified supply chains, and some companies moving to online trade.</li> </ul>	

Item	Details	Action by
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nasim raised the point that the focus of the survey was on businesses, but no focus on VCS organisations who are trading. Mark acknowledged this and that the survey could need updating to take this into account, but mentioned that the survey is still live should any VCS organisations wish to complete it.</li> <li>• The council has £6.8 million to distribute in discretionary funding for businesses.</li> <li>• Discussion took place around those who have struggled to claim government allowances due to rules and restrictions. A lot of these people are finding their only recourse is to claim Universal Credit.</li> <li>• There may be another survey, updated to incorporate VCS, and Mark is happy to liaise on this. Soo mentioned that she is involved in a national VCS survey which could make an updated council survey unnecessary.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Covid-19 – the impact on future procurement and commissioning and opportunities for co-designed locality services – Ian Westlake, Head of Procurement, Bradford Council</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crisis management procurement is in place at the moment. Ian feels that because of this crisis council officers are beginning to realise the benefits of local procurement. At the beginning of lockdown there was a lot more thinking about engaging local suppliers, and that momentum needs to be maintained.</li> <li>• Currently the council target for local spending is 60%; Ian would like this to be higher.</li> <li>• Procurement aspirations are to enable businesses to work with the VCS in a circular economy model, with tangible social value.</li> <li>• How pre-market engagement looks has to be a joint conversation between commissioners and whoever they're engaging with.</li> <li>• In lockdown all suppliers are on immediate payment terms. Work is taking place around how to move this forward to ensure cashflow in the local economy. Javed asked if these immediate payment terms are applicable for CCGs as well; Rachael confirmed that Specialist Autism Services were paid up front by the CCG.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p><i>Change of forum name and focus</i></p> <p>The Assembly Steering Group feels that poverty and welfare should be covered in this forum. Nasim also raised that housing could be added. Javed clarified that there will be no major change to the forum, as workstreams are changing, not forums.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Future meeting dates (currently held on Zoom 10.00 to 11.30 am)</b></p> <p>TBA</p> <p><b>Meeting closed at 11.30 am</b></p>	