



Bradford & District Community Economic VCS Forum

Notes of the meeting Monday 3 August 2020

10.00 to 11.30 am via Zoom

Present: Nasim Qureshi (INCIC) (Co-Chair), Katherine Wyatt (Carlisle Business Centre), Rhys North (WYCAS), Liz Hemsley (Prospects), Janet Ford (CNet), Javed Khan (CNet), Martin Carter (Manningham Project), Rachael Memmott (Specialist Autism Services), Kamran Rashid (Impact Hub Bradford) (left after Item 3), Carlton Smith (Bradford Trident), Mary Dowson (BCB), Soo Nevison (CABAD),

In attendance: Wendy Collins (CNet) (minutes), Mark Clayton (Bradford Council) (item 4 only),

Apologies: Martyn Johnston (Chapel Street Studio), Jamie Saunders (Bradford Council),

Item	Details	Action by
1.	Welcome, introductions and apologies	
2.	Declarations of interest	
3.	Minutes of last meeting Accepted as a true and accurate record.	
4.	<p>Local Access Foundation Funding and Investment Paper – Kamran Rashid, Chief Executive Officer, Impact Hub Bradford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief background on the programme from the Local Access Foundation website: “Local Access is a joint funding programme, established by Access and Big Society Capital that aims to support the development of stronger, more resilient and sustainable social economies in disadvantaged places.” • Bradford is one of six places to have been awarded funding. £1.6 million over ten years. • They are currently in Stage 3, development of the delivery plan, led by Impact Hub Bradford until February 2021, after which another partner will be appointed to lead. An independent facilitator will be recruited in December. • Represented on the Partnership Board are: Locality, PWC, Keyfund, Council, Airedale Enterprise Services, Participate Projects were on previously, Ontrack, and Inspired Neighbourhoods. They are reviewing the Partnership and will probably invite more partners to join. • Nasim asked when we can expect to see grants available on the ground. Kamran replied that it depends how the programme is designed, so it is too early to say when grants and loans will be available. • More information can be found on the Local Access Foundation website and in the Stage 2 proposal, which can be accessed via the CNet website. 	

Item	Details	Action by
5.	<p>Economic Position in Bradford – current and next two years – Mark Clayton, Policy Officer, Office of the Chief Executive, Bradford Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has just set up Bradford Economic Recovery Board to oversee the interim plan to address what needs to happen as a result of Covid. • Currently there are very few facts and figures on the economic impact of Covid. Jobs data is published annually and a year in arrears, so the information on what is happening currently will be not be available for over a year. • The only real figures are the increase in unemployment claims, which has doubled. 65,000 employments are currently furloughed – around a third of the workforce, and retail and hospitality are very high in this group. • Digital industries and the public sector have not really been affected. • A huge effort is needed to reskill and upskill those who have found themselves out of work. We need to work with people on long term basis and the government has announced all kind of schemes to help with this. • The community engagement element is quite crucial. Certain groups have been adversely impacted – Covid has amplified existing disparities. • The first meeting of the Economic Recovery Board is taking place on Monday 17 August, chaired by Dr Zahir Irani of the University School of Management. The terms of reference for the Board have been agreed and Mark will send to Wendy to share. • The Council is working with someone called Claire Monkhouse on a vision paper looking at the next 1-2 years and 2-4 years. • Soo asked if the recovery plan will include specific sections on young people and young families who are finding themselves in financial difficulties for the first time. Mark replied that young people are absolutely a consideration and he will take the point about young families on board. • Soo suggests that Mark speaks to at Ian Brewer at Bradford District Credit Union, as they were oversubscribed for their last grant scheme, with lots of applicants being unknown to them before this time. • Nasim mentioned that people who have lost employment could be transitioned into care jobs, as these are still in need, but Mark replied that as they are low paid it is difficult to get people into them. • Liz mentioned that NEET figures from Prospects are being sent to John McDermott in the Council on a weekly basis, and that Stronger Families (Under families first) – led by Barnardo’s in Bradford District – are submitting figures to the council on young families. • Nasim mentioned that CLLD in Manningham and Keighley have large amounts of funding to distribute but can’t because organisations can’t get match funding. They would be good for the Council to speak to. • Javed mentioned that large numbers of self-employed people, especially taxi drivers, are being pushed into Universal Credit as lots don’t have standard accounting records so can’t access government schemes. This informal economy has been hugely affected. • Mark asked that people pass on any evidence, information or contacts he can speak to, in order that he can get a better picture of what is going on in the district economically. 	<p>Mark / Wendy</p>

Item	Details	Action by
6.	<p>Process for appointment of Co-Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nasim's previous Co-Chair, Tony Dylak, has retired from his post at Royds, so there is a vacancy for a Co-Chair for the Forum. Janet explained that the process for appointing is as follows: expressions of interest from Forum members are gathered against a role description, CEF members then vote in a private ballot. Soo suggested postponing the replacement co-chair election because of the current infrastructure review. Following a discussion, it was agreed that support for Nasim was needed due to the broad agenda covered by the forum. Janet will start the process. 	<p>Co-chair election Janet</p>
7.	<p>Agenda items to be covered in the next few meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The forum covers housing, advice, poverty and commissioning as well as economy and jobs Areas covered by the forum will be sent with the papers for next meeting, members can then agree priorities, actions and potential leads. 	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Bradford Community Energy (Carlton):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up in May and work with community centres to develop and finance renewable energy assets – wind turbines, solar panels, etc. The first of these is Bradford Trident. £100+ share offer open until 16 August. Gives about 3.5% interest for investors / shareholders. Community Benefit Society – all shareholders have one vote. Soo asked if there will there be someone employed to get the scheme up and running for other centres. Carlton explained that they don't have resources for this, but have they lots of documentation, volunteers and the present board who will be aiding with this. More details can be found at: www.bcel.org 	
9.	<p>Future meeting dates (currently held on Zoom 10.00 to 11.30 am)</p> <p>TBA</p> <p>Meeting closed at 11.50 am</p>	