



Bradford & District Community Economic VCS Forum

Notes of the meeting Monday 9 November 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), Carlton Smith (Bradford Trident), Mary Dowson (BCB), Ann West (Shipley Kirkgate), Naz Kazmi (Keighley Asian Women’s and Children’s Centre (KAWACC)), Wendy Spencer (Airedale Enterprise Services), Ali Ward (Social Enterprise Yorkshire and Humber), Mary Dowson (BCB), Farzana Ghani (Roshni Ghar), Al-Ameen Hussain (Bradford College), Tracey (DWP),

In attendance: Wendy Collins (CNet) (minutes), Mark Clayton (Bradford Council), Jamie Saunders (Bradford Council), Zahir Irani (University of Bradford) (until 11.00 am),

Apologies:

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.	Economic Strategy, overview and impact of Covid-19 – Mark Clayton, Policy Officer, Office of the Chief Executive, Bradford Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark’s presentation was shared with the group. • Covid not affecting the economy as much as thought, not as much as a no-deal Brexit is predicted to. • Large increases in unemployment. The number of people claiming Universal Credit has doubled since March. Bradford has the highest claimant count in West Yorkshire and the highest youth (16-24 years) claimant count in the country. • The number of furloughed jobs halved between May and July; the jobs came back quickly once the country came out of lockdown. This provides hope for the current lockdown, especially as the furlough scheme has been extended until March. • Job vacancies are down nationally at the moment. • Culture and leisure and recreation have been the worst hit, but the majority of other businesses have been continuing to trade, although at a reduced level. • Prior to this lockdown city centre footfall had recovered to about 60-70% of where it usually is. This didn’t recover further because of the lack of office workers in the city centre offices. 	

Item	Details	Action by
5.	<p>Bradford Economic Recovery Board – Zahir Irani, Chair of Bradford Economic Recovery Board & Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Bradford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zahir’s slide was shared with the group. • As a result of Covid Bradford Council decided to take a different approach to reassess the Economic Recovery Strategy. The existing 10-year plan is split into the following four key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our young and enterprising population ○ Bradford’s distinctive offer ○ Bradford’s growth potential ○ The global perspective • The aim of the reassessment is not to rewrite the plan but to ‘stress test’ the current plan and come up with an implementation plan. • Decided to identify and prioritise four key workstreams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Skilled employees and employment in new and growing sectors – the purpose of this was to recognise that a skilled workforce is something that cuts across all areas. Ensuring that the right people are in the right jobs. Develop a robust response to capacity and capability. ○ Green Economy – would like this to stand out, for people to see that Bradford is the place to be to develop green initiatives, using key anchor organisations, such as the Council, to lead by example. It is a growing sector and has an opportunity to feed employment potential. Bring together the following areas: zero carbon economy, circular economy, responsible consumption, environment, and local resilience. ○ Business start-ups and entrepreneurship – to attract new businesses to the area whilst also developing local start-ups. Support infrastructure and mentoring to help start-ups and established businesses to grow and develop. ○ Culture and Place – aiming to bring together the towns around the district and the city centre. Exercising appropriate localism. • The plan is now to develop these workstreams more. Price Waterhouse Cooper has been commissioned to take the ideas of the Board and turn them into a delivery plan. • Barclays Bank is leading the business start-ups workstream and they are knowledgeable about the Bradford economy, so they understand Bradford’s asset base. • Send Zahir or Mark an email if you wish to play a role in this: z.irani@bradford.ac.uk / mark.clayton@bradford.gov.uk. 	

Item	Details	Action by
6.	<p>West Yorkshire Devolution / Combined Authority – Jamie Saunders, Policy Officer, Office of the Chief Executive, Bradford Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a multi-billion-pound deal that will see West Yorkshire become a mayoral authority with a directly elected mayor. • How do we protect the interests of the communities in Bradford? Each of the five councils within West Yorkshire become constituent councils. The mayor will be a figurehead but each council will continue working for their own area. • There are a number of opportunities for the VCS: social enterprise, co-operatives, innovation in community financing. • Nothing in the devolution arrangements would stop local endeavour. • This isn't intended to be the end of the process; it is the start of bringing more powers and resource from Westminster to the local area. • Mary asked if Jamie will do some work with BCB to share information with the community; Jamie agreed. • Some things will stay the same as we are already part of West Yorkshire Combined Authority. • Mark stated that VCS community knowledge is vital for creating an evidence base and creating investment in communities. • Jamie recommends a standing item for the next few CEF meetings to discuss devolution. • Javed asked how well informed the local politicians are on devolution. Jamie: what makes Bradford a bit different at the moment is that Cllr Hinchcliffe is the Chair of the Combined Authority; this puts Bradford in a strong position to make sure that what is being approved in the next few weeks works for Bradford on a local level. • More information on devolution can be found here: https://www.yourvoice.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/wydevolution. 	
8.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum Co-Chair – no applications so put on hold until post-lockdown. • Bradford Community Energy reached £60,000 match fund target. Interested in reaching out to other organisations looking into community energy in their community buildings. • Katherine – Made in Manningham is now hosted by Participate Projects, but they are going to be an independent organisation, developing over the next six months. 	
9.	<p>Future meeting dates (currently held on Zoom 10.00 to 11.30 am) TBA Meeting closed at 11.30 am</p>	