

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 22 November 2021
Report for: Decision
Report of: Executive Member for Communities and Partnerships

Report Title

GM VCSE Accord

Summary

The GM VCSE Accord Agreement is a three-way collaboration agreement between GMCA, GM Health and Social Care Partnership and the GM VCSE Sector represented by the GM VCSE Leadership Group. The agreement has been refreshed and was signed off at the September GMCA meeting with an ask for each Council to consider approving and endorsing the new agreement. This report provides members with details of the new agreement and the implications of the commitments set out in the agreement for Trafford.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Executive:

1. Consider the new GM VCSE Accord as presented in the attached annex, and the implications that the commitments it contains will have on work with the VCSE sector in Trafford.
2. Approve the new GM VCSE Accord and confirm endorsement on behalf of Trafford.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Dianne Geary
Extension: 1821

Background Papers: None.

Implications:

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	The GM VCSE Accord relates to: Trafford VCSE Strategy Trafford Council Corporate Plan Along with the wider VCSE State of the Sector Report for Trafford
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	The GM VCSE Accord is a separate and independent agreement. It is part of the wider suite of key strategic plans in the GM system including the wider Greater Manchester Strategy
Financial	None directly in signing the GM VCSE Accord. Trafford does contribute to the wider GM system through contributions and therefore signing would mean involvement in how this is driven and delivered. This is delivered through GMCA who have a budget of £408,400 through cultural and social impact fund and health and social care partnership.
Legal Implications:	The VCSE Accord is a partnership agreement which will involve all parties offering to bring resources (financial and non-financial) into the arrangement. It will enable shared delivery and shared accountability, as well as shared risk for the actions taken across the VCSE Leadership Group, GMCA and Health and Social Care Partnership.
Equality/Diversity Implications	An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out for the GM VCSE Accord and is set out in the GMCA Cabinet Paper.
Sustainability Implications	N/A
Carbon Reduction	VCSE organisations make commitments to reduce the waste and increase reuse and recycling in their activities. Roads, parking and vehicle access may be impacted by the implementation of the Accord.
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	No direct impact
Risk Management Implications	The majority of this approach is driven at a GM level and therefore there is a risk that if the GM VCSE Accord is not signed off that Trafford would not be able to be involved in shaping this for local delivery.
Health & Wellbeing Implications	No direct impact
Health and Safety Implications	No direct impact

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In November 2017 and on behalf of the GMCA, an Accord Agreement was signed by the Mayor of Greater Manchester with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, which set out new, improved standards of working with VCSE organisations. The GM VCSE sector also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Health and Social Care Partnership. Since that time, a huge amount of collaborative work has taken place and the relationship between the public and VCSE sectors has increased in strength, particularly during the Coronavirus pandemic.
- 1.2 In September 2020, GMCA Members agreed to extend the scope of the Accord to embrace health and social care, replacing the previous MOU, and to work collaboratively with the GM Health and Social Care Partnership to co-produce this new agreement with the GM VCSE Leadership Group. At the same time, the GMCA also approved a proposal for investment in VCSE leadership and infrastructure in the Sector at a GM footprint.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 24th September 2021, the Combined Authority considered and approved: the (1) GMCA Cabinet Paper on the Refresh of GM VCSE Accord (Attached at Annex 1); and the (2) GM VCSE Accord Agreement (Attached at Annex 2).
- 1.4 The Combined Authority authorised the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the GM Portfolio Lead for Community, Co-operatives, Voluntary Sector and Inclusion and the Chief Executive of the Combined Authority to sign the Accord Agreement on their behalf. Furthermore, all the Leaders present at the Combined Authority also signed a copy of the Accord Agreement following the meeting.
- 1.5 The GM VCSE Accord Agreement (“Accord Agreement”) is a tri-partite collaboration agreement between the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership and the GM Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector represented by the GM VCSE Leadership Group, based in a relationship of mutual trust, working together, and sharing responsibility.
- 1.6 The Accord Agreement will act as a framework for collaboration involving VCSE leaders and organisations in the delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) and in the thematic strategies and delivery plans that will exist to deliver the GMS vision, including the development of the strategic plan of the new GM Integrated Care System. The purpose of the Accord Agreement is to further develop how we work together to improve outcomes for Greater Manchester’s communities and citizens.
- 1.7 In the discussion at the meeting, Leaders noted that the Accord Agreement has an implication for the relationship of all local authorities with their local voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises. The success of the Accord Agreement and the shared commitments that it contains will rely on their recognition, adoption and action at a locality and neighbourhood level.

1.8 Combined Authority members felt that it was important that the Accord Agreement be debated in all GM districts with a view to adoption and endorsement of the Accord Agreement within each district.

2. GM VCSE ACCORD

2.1 As part of the recovery from the pandemic and to facilitate both the refresh of the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) and the development of the Integrated Care System, it would be advantageous to have a unified way of working between the local authorities, GMCA, the Integrated Care System and the GM VCSE sector, represented by the GM VCSE Leadership Group. This would allow a single conversation with the sector in relation to all aspects of the GMS and its partner strategies. It would also enable a focus on sustaining their valuable work in communities and creating a more resilient VCSE sector.

2.2 The development of this new Accord Agreement is the product of a series of structured conversations held in July and early August with stakeholders including;

- GM VCSE networks;
- Local VCSE infrastructure organisations;
- Local VCSE leaders;
- GMCA;
- GM Health and Social Care commissioners;
- Local Authority policy leads; and
- Other statutory sector stakeholders.

2.3 Development of the draft new Accord Agreement has also been informed by reflection on the success of the original VCSE Accord undertaken by the GM VCSE Leadership Group and officers at GMCA, as well as by learning gleaned from the evaluation report of the GM VCSE Engagement Programme for the GM Health and Social Care Partnership, carried out by Cordis Bright in early 2021.

2.4 Furthermore, the Accord Agreement has been developed following consideration of our learning and reflections from the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 report of the GM Independent Inequalities Commission, and the Marmot report 'Building Back Fairer in Greater Manchester'.

2.5 The Accord Agreement is intended to work in a number of ways:

- Through a shared understanding of the contribution that VCSE organisations make towards tackling inequality in society, creating a more inclusive economy and addressing the climate crisis.
- Through the building of effective partnerships and relationships between the statutory sector with VCSE organisations across different geographies (for example GM-wide, district-wide, or in neighbourhoods and communities)
- Through a shared vision, ways of working principles and set of commitments which underpin these partnerships and relationships
- Through a 5-year iterative programme of enabling and developmental activities driven at a GM-wide footprint, which aims to maximise the ability of VCSE organisations to deliver beneficial outcomes.

2.6 There are a number of commitments contained in the Accord Agreement which are summarised below:

Commitment 1: We will work together to achieve a permanent reduction in inequalities and inequity within Greater Manchester, addressing the social, environmental and economic determinants of health and wellbeing.

Commitment 2: We will embed the VCSE sector as a key delivery partner of services for communities in Greater Manchester.

Commitment 3: We will build a financially resilient VCSE sector that is resourced to address our biggest challenges of ending poverty and inequality in Greater Manchester.

Commitment 4: We will grow the role of the VCSE sector as an integral part of a resilient and inclusive economy where social enterprises, co-operatives, community businesses, charities and microsocial business thrive.

Commitment 5: We will build on our existing strengths to build the best VCSE ecosystem in England.

Commitment 6: We will put into place meaningful mechanisms to make co-design of local services the norm, including expanding channels for service design to be informed by 'lived experience'.

Commitment 7: We will fulfil the potential for building productive relationships between the VCSE, public and private sectors to address inequity and build back fairer.

Commitment 8: We will put in place a comprehensive workforce programme to support organisational and workforce development for VCSE employers based on and facilitating a more integrated public facing workforce.

2.7 The Accord Agreement will be supported by a five-year implementation plan for work driven at a GM footprint and funding agreement for implementation of that plan, as well as a review of the operation and membership on the GM VCSE Leadership Group. The success of the Accord Agreement and the above commitments will rely on the adoption and action at a locality and neighbourhood level in Trafford.

3. CONSIDERATIONS FOR TRAFFORD

3.1 The Accord Agreement and the above commitments align with the vision, outcomes and priorities in the refreshed Corporate Plan. There are also a number of considerations to take into account listed below:

3.1.1 Existing activity aligned with the Accord's commitments: Broadly, activity between the Council and with partners is already delivering or working towards many of the commitments set out in the Accord; much of this activity is via the

delivery of the Locality Plan, development of the Integrated Care System and One System Board where the VCFSE sector have been a vital partner. Recent initiatives i.e. launch of the Poverty Truth Commission will also contribute to the commitments. A further review is required across all activity to ensure full alignment.

3.1.2 Trafford representation: At present, 6 of the 10 GM authorities are represented on GM VCSE Leadership Group. At this time Trafford are not part of this group. However, conversations have been underway between GMCA, the GM VCSE Leadership Group and the VCFSE infrastructure services in these four other local authority areas regarding greater representation. Trafford's VCFSE infrastructure support service provider has been involved in these conversations.

3.1.3 Trafford VCFSE Strategy: Key partners involved in developing Trafford's VCFSE Strategy include Thrive Trafford, Trafford Community Collective and Trafford Housing Trust; the Accord has been shared with these partners who are supportive and recognise the need to align the VCFSE Strategy with the commitments within the Accord.

3.1.4 Long Term Strategic Commissioning of VCFSE Sector in Trafford: VCFSE infrastructure services in other areas of GM are likely to drive the Accord forward with their local authority. The current Trafford VCFSE infrastructure support service contract is due to end in 2022 and a long term co-produced framework is currently under consideration which will direct the delivery of the Accord and further development of Trafford's VCFSE Strategy.

4. OTHER OPTIONS

4.1 To not approve or endorse the GM VCSE Accord on behalf of Trafford– this would mean that Trafford Council, having signed off the previous Accord, would not sign off the refreshed version. Trafford would not have a role or ability to work with and shape the delivery of the Accord in the Borough or be able to influence the focus of the work and accompanying GMCA budget of £408,400. It would be a missed opportunity to try to align to Trafford's local priorities and wider VCFSE Strategy.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 The development of this new Accord is the product of a series of structured conversations held in July and early August 2021 with stakeholders as described in 2.2.

5.2 The Accord acts as a framework for the delivery of the vision set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy and as a result, the VCSE sector is engaged in the development, governance and delivery of the GMS including relevant consultation and co-design.

5.3 The Accord has also been considered by the GMCA Cabinet.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Consider the new GM VCSE Accord as presented in the attached annex, and the implications that the commitments it contains will have on work with the VCSE sector in Trafford.

6.2 Approve the new GM VCSE Accord and confirm endorsement on behalf of Trafford.

Reasons for Recommendation

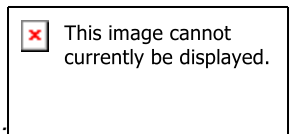
6.3 To enable Trafford to continue to have a role in shaping the delivery of the Accord in the Borough and retain the ability to influence the focus of the work and accompanying GMCA budget of £408,400.

Key Decision (as defined in the Constitution): Yes

If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given? Yes

Finance Officer Clearance (type in initials).....GB.....

Legal Officer Clearance (type in initials).....DS.....



DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE:

Sara Saleh

To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.