

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 9 December 2020
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Report title	Partnership Agreement between City of Wolverhampton Council and Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Jasbir Jaspal Public Health and Wellbeing	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	John Denley, Director of Public Health	
Originating service	Communities	
Accountable employee	Sam Axtell	Consultation and Community Involvement Officer
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Report to be/has been considered by	Public Health Leadership Team	17 November 2020
	Strategic Executive Board	19 November 2020

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve City of Wolverhampton Council submitting a joint funding bid with the Voluntary Sector Council to the National Lottery for a three year programme to develop the work of Wolverhampton for Everyone.
2. Authorise the Director of Governance to put in place a legally binding agreement between City of Wolverhampton Council and the Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Cabinet to agree to the Council entering into an agreement with Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council (WVSC) to jointly put forward a bid to the National Lottery.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Since late 2018, City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) has been collaborating with Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council (WVSC) to deliver an initiative called Wolverhampton for Everyone. Wolverhampton for Everyone (WE) aims to create a people-powered city, where everyone feels able to participate in creating the city they want to live and work in.
- 2.2 WE is a movement comprised of a network of individuals and organisations in the City with the partnership anchored by WVSC and CWC.
- 2.3 WVSC exists to support the development and sustainability of an effective voluntary and community sector, promoting the principle and practice of voluntary and community activity, in order to facilitate the development of diverse, strong communities and to enhance quality of life within the City of Wolverhampton.
- 2.4 In 2019 CWC agreed to fund the VSC to develop work in this area and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was developed to record the basis on which both parties would collaborate. The Memorandum of Understanding agreed that CWC and WVSC would work together to create Wolverhampton for Everyone and agreed the basis on which we would collaborate with each other. This included:
- (a) **collaborate and co-operate.** Establish and adhere to the governance structure set out in the MoU to ensure that activities are delivered and actions taken as required;
 - (b) **be accountable.** Take on, manage and account to each other for performance of the respective roles and responsibilities set out in the MoU;
 - (c) **be open.** Communicate openly about major concerns, issues or opportunities relating to the Project;
 - (d) **learn, develop and seek to achieve full potential.** Share information, experience, materials and skills to learn from each other and develop effective working practices, work collaboratively to identify solutions, eliminate duplication of effort, mitigate risk and reduce cost;
 - (e) **adopt a positive outlook.** Behave in a positive, proactive manner;
 - (f) **adhere to statutory requirements and best practice.** Comply with applicable laws and standards including EU procurement rules, data protection and freedom of information legislation;
 - (g) **act in a timely manner.** Recognise the time-critical nature of the Project and respond accordingly to requests for support;

- (h) **manage stakeholders effectively;**
- (i) **deploy appropriate resources.** Ensure sufficient and appropriately qualified resources are available and authorised to fulfil the responsibilities set out in the MoU; and
- (j) **act in good faith** to support achievement of the Key Objectives and compliance with these Principles.

- 2.5 Subsequently CWC identified a Councillor Champion for Wolverhampton for Everyone to support the work.
- 2.6 In the subsequent months the work of WE has grown and developed and the WVSC, as the accountable body, has been liaising with the National Lotteries regarding the possibility of submitting a bid to fund future activity over a three year period. Colleagues from the Legal Department have advised that the original Memorandum of Understanding would not be sufficient for the purposes of embodying the partnership arrangement and that a new collaboration agreement in respect of the funding bid needs to be authorised by Cabinet.
- 2.7 The purpose of the collaboration partnership agreement is to enter into a legally binding agreement that sets out the respective roles and responsibilities of the WVSC and the CWC for the purposes of applying for approximately £380,000 of Lottery funding. The agreement will not involve the procurement of any goods or services.
- 2.8 The WVSC are applying to the National Lottery Community Fund for a three year programme to develop the work of Wolverhampton for Everyone. The pandemic has forced a pause in the face to face activity that Wolverhampton for Everyone had been developing. Activities have since been conducted online with some success, particularly work to Reimagine the City in ten years' time, in which over 70 people have been involved.
- 2.9 It is proposed that, if the funding bid is successful, CWC would oversee the project alongside WVSC. This will involve overseeing the work, leading on particular work streams and jointly making decisions about the allocation of funds to support work within communities.
- 2.10 There are many benefits to the Council in supporting this programme of work. Not only will it support the Recovery Programme, it will also support the Council's Place Based working and support communities across the city to connect and thrive – a key Council priority.
- 2.11 The agreement will establish WVSC as the lead organisation and accountable body for the bid to the National Lottery Community Fund. CWC will be the main partner in developing the work with the VSC. The Council will provide up to two and a half days a week of officer time to support the work of Wolverhampton for Everyone. At present CWC is providing this level of support so this proposal would not require any further resources as it is within current capacity.

- 2.12 The bid will include funding for costs such as renting space for activities (when restrictions allow), for staffing and for resources and materials to support the work, including money that will go directly to communities to activate activities in areas.
- 2.13 The bid will build on the previous work developed by the two organisations and will particularly focus on safely activating community activities across the city in the light of the global pandemic. It will build on the successful programme of activity since March 2020 when WE has delivered much of its work remotely. However, WE will ensure that its work continues to be inclusive through the development of packs to activate activities such as repair cafes, share sheds, trade schools and greening and growing activities, as well as working to extend digital inclusion and providing telephone support to support people to set up activities.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 Since its inception in late 2018, WE has developed a comprehensive range of activities and has developed many successful initiatives including:
- Briefing Council employees and Councillors about their work
 - Establishing a base for activities at Newhampton Arts Centre
 - Supporting a local resident to bring TEDx to Wolverhampton. (TEDx are events organised by individuals who seek to uncover new ideas and to share the latest research in their local areas that spark conversations in their communities)
 - Establishing a network of Repair Cafes in the City, which has encouraged and supported people to repair items rather than placing them in landfill
 - Bringing Trade School to Wolverhampton. In September 2019, 15 individuals led sessions on issues as diverse as making videos on your phone to making accessories out of junk items, in exchange for inexpensive barter items. In September 2020 Wolverhampton for Everyone collaborated with CoLab Dudley and Bearwood Community Centre to deliver Trade School online
 - Delivering a 'design jam' on developing a Playful City. 45 people attended and six prototype activities were delivered in the October 2019 half term
 - Delivering two #OneGreenGov events that brought people together around the issue of climate change. Seven prototype ideas were developed, including an idea for a City Garden Festival, which would have been delivered in March 2020, but had to be postponed to the Government lockdown
 - Developed a network of social entrepreneurs
- 3.2 During the pandemic, Wolverhampton for Everyone has continued its work using digital means to continue to connect and inspire people. During this time the team has continued to meet virtually. WE has facilitated a trilogy of events intended to help people to RE:IMAGINE, RE:IGNITE and RE:ACTIVATE (i.e. design, create and run new projects in communities). The last session in October saw 35 people attend. WE has also supported the network of Repair Cafes to consider how to continue their work, and an online repair club is soon to be established in the City.
- 3.3 Lottery Funding will enable the team to continue their work which will complement the Relighting Our City strategy and Place Based working as part of the City's overall Recovery Programme. The work programme will offer a blended approach of digital and face to face interactions which can be agilely moved between as circumstances allow.

4.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 4.1 Option 1 would be not to sign a partnership agreement with the VSC. The Lottery has given feedback that they think the bid is strengthened by a partnership approach. So whilst it would still be technically possible for the VSC to submit the bid without Council support, this would likely to be received less favourably by the National Lottery and risks losing an additional resource of £380,000 to support the recovery programme in the City.
- 4.2 Option 2 would be in the event of the bid being unsuccessful, CWC and WVSC would review the current informal partnership arrangement. Agreement would be sought if this had any legal, financial or other implications.

5.0 Reasons for decision(s)

- 5.1 The decision to authorise the agreement between the CWC and the VSC will have the potential to bring a significant new community resource into the City at a time when many communities have been hard hit by the effects of the pandemic. This work aligns with CWC's place based approach and it is intended to pilot Wolverhampton for Everyone's approaches in at least one of the place based areas.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 This proposal will have no direct financial implications for the Council since the proposal is not concerned with procuring any goods or services. Instead, it relates to entering into a partnership arrangement with the VSC, who will be the accountable body for the funding received. CWC will collaborate with the VSC to oversee and deliver the work programme and ensure synergy with wider initiatives.
- 6.2 This will entail, for instance, establishing and adhering to an agreed governance structure; accounting to each other for performance; communicating openly about concerns; sharing information, experience and skills; managing stakeholders and resources effectively and acting in good faith to achieve the objectives of the project.
[LD/10112020/D]

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 Under the Council's Constitution the Cabinet has delegation to work with partners and other bodies to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wolverhampton and its citizens. Working with the Voluntary Sector Council to submit the funding bid and achieving the outcomes of the bid could benefit the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wolverhampton and its citizens.
- 7.2 The Council will need to enter into a legally binding agreement with the Voluntary Sector Council to govern the relationship between the two organisations including the roles and responsibilities of each organisation to achieve the desired outcomes.
- 7.3 Legal Services will draft the agreement between the two organisations in accordance with paragraph 6.2 above.
[SZ/10112020/P]

8.0 Equalities implications

8.1 An equality analysis has not been completed for this piece of work, since the VSC is the accountable body responsible for producing this.

9.0 Climate change and environmental implications

9.1 Wolverhampton for Everyone has sustainability and environmental concerns at the heart of its mission. 'Mindful of Environmental Impact' is one of the key principles and WE seeks to ensure that thinking about environmental impact is integral to all planning and activities. As such, activities that mitigate against climate change and support the environment have been and will continue to be centre stage. For example, greening the city was one of seven themes to emerge from the recent Re:imagine session.

10.0 Human resources implications

10.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

11.0 Corporate landlord implications

11.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

12.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

12.1 By addressing a wide range of social, environmental and economic factors through drawing people together and enabling them to have agency over their own lives, WE is addressing the wider determinants of health.

13.0 Covid Implications

13.1 As detailed in section 3 of this report, WE has had to adapt its approach in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and will continue to do so. Currently all WE activity is digital, and it is proposed to develop a blended approach of digital and face to face activities as circumstances allow, with safety a key concern.

14.0 Schedule of background papers

14.1 None