



Classification	Item No.
Open	

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Meeting date:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
<b>Title of report:</b>	Greater Manchester Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) Accord
<b>Report by:</b>	Councillor Richard Gold - Cabinet Member for Communities and Emergency Planning
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Non key
<b>Ward(s) to which report relates</b>	<b>All Bury Wards</b>

## Background

A report was tabled at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 on the new Greater Manchester Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Accord (GM VCSE Accord) for approval.

The Accord is a tri-partite agreement between the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership and the Greater Manchester VCSE Leadership Group on behalf of the VCSE sector in the region, with a purpose to further develop collaborative working with VCSE organisations to improve outcomes for local communities. It is anchored on a relationship of mutual trust, of working together and sharing responsibility.

The Accord was signed by the Mayor of Greater Manchester and a recommendation was made for the Accord to be referred for recommendation to each local authority in the region in recognition that a number of elements within the Accord are to be delivered within localities, including by local authorities.

## Bury Context

Earlier in 2021 the Council and CCG entered into a new Service Level Agreement with the Bury VCFA, in the context of Let's Do It and Bury's neighbourhood model, which has a focus on strategic leadership; sector development and training; resilience and sustainability; enhancing connectivity and collaboration; and raising participation and voice. The Strategic Partnerships Team meet with the Chief Officer of the Bury VCFA on a weekly basis to share insight and ensure opportunities for working together are maximised. The Bury VCFA have a new Chief Officer from November 2021 and this will be used as an opportunity to review the SLA in light of the updated Accord and recent State of the Sector Survey. The GMCA report relates to the 2021 State of the Sector Survey for the region. Work has now been completed on the locality report which identifies that there are 1,249

VCSE organisations in Bury, 71% of which are micro-organisations (annual income under £10k) which is comparable to the region. This equates to approximately 2,500 FTE employees and over 26,000 volunteers providing an economic contribution of £65m per annum.

Alongside this there has been further investment into community capacity, particularly during the last eighteen months, in conjunction with the VCFA and wider VCSE partners, to provide funding for immediate resilience alongside promoting recovery from the pandemic in terms of health improvement, tackling loneliness and addressing local priorities.

In the context of the changing landscape in health and care with the emergence of the GM ICS it is timely to conduct a system stocktake of connections as a health and care system with the VCSE ecosystem (regionally and locally – including at a neighbourhood level) to inform future (joint) investment pipelines to provide confidence and nurture community capacity within the sector. As part of the transition to the GM ICS arrangements there is full commitment to continue with our strategic intent, set out in our Locality Plan, to build the connections to community capacity and capability, recognising the assets of local residents and communities

### **Let's Do It!**

The GM VCSE Accord acts as a framework for collaboration involving VCSE leaders and organisations in the delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy and respective thematic strategies and delivery plans. Locally this is a reality in relation to *Let's Do It!*

Bury's *Let's Do It* Strategy and neighbourhood model repeatedly demonstrates the crucial role community, voluntary and faith-based groups and social enterprises play in our local neighbourhoods and the opportunities for the sector to be central to delivering our collective vision for the future.

The Strategy was developed with local communities and VCSE groups, building on pre-existing collaborative work and relationships which were brought into sharp focus when addressing the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The principles set out in *Let's Do It* provide the framework for further collaboration, as the Accord does from a regional perspective.

**Local** - active involvement of voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises in places and neighbourhoods will be key for the borough to tackle inequalities and improve outcomes. Local community groups and networks are anchors within our communities, with whom relationships with their respective community hub manager, integrated neighbourhood teams across health & care and emerging community forums will further increase the collective design and delivery of local provision.

**Enterprise** – through engagement at Team Bury, where the Bury Voluntary and Community Faith Alliance (VCFA) play an active role, there has been the development of a Community Wealth Building Framework. The framework has VCSE involvement across all pillars and leadership of activity to focus on

opportunities for social enterprise, the social economy and working with local business and the Bury Business Leadership Group on social value.

**Together** – The launch of Let’s Do It included VCSE representation leading discussions as part of the ‘Bury Futures’ series of events, highlighting the role of the sector as a key partner in design, governance and delivery. Across partnership boards including Health and Wellbeing, Public Service Reform, Community Safety and the Children’s Strategic Partnership Board there is strong VCSE representation and involvement. This is an integral part of ensuring that we ‘work with’, and not ‘do to’ local communities and can be seen in the health and care arena where activity is increasingly as a ‘whole system’. We’ve also seen examples of networks coming together to address common challenges. The Bury Community Support Network is a VCSE led group of food banks and pantries which increasingly worked together during the pandemic, from which they have continued to grow as a network to address the anti-poverty agenda alongside statutory agencies.

**Strengths based** - Through Let’s Do It we seek to extend this to ensure more voices from communities are heard, and in particular those which are Seldom Heard. Work is currently taking place in relation to develop and facilitate listening activities in Bury focusing on lived experience in relation to race and this has had VCSE engagement from the outset, including involvement in training and development on active listening. We are working to ensure the lived experience of Bury residents, patients from a health and care perspective, and communities are at the heart of our transformation programmes and we look forward to working ever closer with the VCFA, Healthwatch and other key partners across the sector to realise this ambition.

**Recommendation** – To confirm Bury’s commitment to the Accord and champion through the Team Bury Network.

**Equality Impact and considerations:**

*Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the ‘general duty’ on public authorities is set out as follows:*

*A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -*

- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

*The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying ‘due regard’ in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.*

<b>Equality Analysis</b>	<i>Please provide a written explanation of the outcome(s) of either conducting an initial or full EA.</i>
As per the Equality Analysis completed by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the VCSE Accord provides an opportunity to enhance involvement and	

opportunity with individuals and communities across protected characteristics. This includes through strengthening existing networks focusing on communities of interest or experience and increasing through Let's Do It provides increased participation and voice in the development and delivery of plans, policies and activity locally.

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**Assessment of Risk:**

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
The Let's Do It Strategy clearly sets out the vital role the VCSE sector contributes to the Borough and is at the heart of delivering Let's Do It. This accord firms up commitment to secure engagement and collaboration as a central partner to develop and deliver plans, without which	Active engagement with the sector at both a strategic level through the VCFA and in neighbourhoods through Bury's emerging neighbourhood model.

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**Consultation:**

Local representation through VCFA and partners including Healthwatch in regional discussions on the overall accord and local application across Team Bury.

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**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 builds on the 2017 accord between the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the VCSE sector. The Council is a signatory to the accord. The accord will strengthen 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.

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**Financial Implications:**

To support this work, a budget of £228,400 was approved by the GMCA in September 2020 from the Cultural and Social Impact Fund, with approval delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Community, Co-operatives and Inclusion Portfolio Leader and Chief Executive to award grant agreements, subject to final agreement of GMCA budgets for 2021/22 onwards. The GM Health and Social Care Partnership has also agreed to provide £180,000 in the current financial year towards delivery of the new VCSE Accord.

Note Bury Council has a current Service Level Agreement with the Bury VCFA of a value of £340k over two years, April 2021-March 2023.

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**Background papers:**

Greater Manchester Combined Authority – Paper on VCSE Accord:

<https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s16721/11%20VCSE%20Accord.pdf>

Greater Manchester Combined Authority – GM VCSE Accord document

<https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s16715/11%20Annex%201%20-%20GM%20VCSE%20Accord.pdf>

**Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.**

Term	Meaning
ICS VCSE	Integrated Care System Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector