**15th February 2022**

**Microsoft Teams**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT: IN ATTENDANCE:**

John Mothersole Chair Jon Eastwood Interim Director, England

Rosie Ginday Member Mark Purvis Interim Director, England

Maggie Jones Member Sophy Proctor Deputy Director, England

Tarn Lamb Member Abdou Sidibe Deputy Director, England

Kevin Bone Member Catherine Roberts Head of Governance (minutes)

Ray Coyle Member Katie Crystal Governance Officer (minutes)

**FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS:**

Luke Maynard Policy Manager

Julia Tinsley-Kent Policy & Briefings Officer

1. **COMMITTEE INFORMAL CATCH UP**
	1. The Committee held a closed session for members only.

*The ESMT, the Head of Governance and the Governance Officer joined the meeting.*

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
	1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all. Apologies were received from Kim and Ruhina.

**Declarations of Interest**

* 1. There were no declarations of interest.

**Minutes of the Meeting Held on the 18th of January 2022.**

* 1. The Committee requested that the decision on the application from BEAT be amended. The minutes asked that the organisation explore reducing the financial ask through drawing on their ‘restricted reserves’ as opposed to ‘unrestricted reserves’.
	2. That change being considered, the minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

**Matters Arising**

* 1. The action log was reviewed and updated.

*Luke Maynard and Julia Tinsley-Kent joined the meeting.*

1. **WIDER** **CONTEXT**
	1. The Committee was provided with an overview of the current external context. The members reflected on the continued pressures facing the charity sector, noting that recovery from the pandemic has been slow and stalled in many areas. Due to this, some communities will have less access to services than in pre-pandemic times.
	2. Additionally, many organisations have lost the capacity to engage with others in the sector. The need to bolster the Fund’s role as a convenor for creating partnerships and relationships across the sector was highlighted as a way to alleviate this pressure. The importance of assisting communities to remove barriers to opportunities was emphasised.
	3. The members reflected that the current political agenda would bring an opportunity to focus on creating successful places in England and build relationships with local governments. The Committee also noted the importance of investing in capability capacity to ensure communities have the resources to achieve their objectives.
2. **IMPACT – WHEN ARE WE AT OUR MOST EFFECTIVE?**
	1. The members held a session to discuss the factors that make the Fund and the England Committee the most effective in fulfilling their role. Funding strategy within the England portfolio was also discussed.
	2. The members were asked to reflect on when they believe the Committee is best positioned to be its most effective. The following circumstances were highlighted by members as leading the Committee to be most effective:
3. The Committee is most effective when it clearly articulates which causes it would like to support (targeted and purposeful).
4. The Committee is most effective when the learning from funding at the grassroots level is used to create change. The Fund has the advantage of scale and should prioritise translating learnings into data to influence change.
	1. EMST was asked to reflect on the conditions they believe make the Fund most effective. It was noted that the Fund is at its best when connections and networks are cultivated within places and local knowledge is valued. The Fund has the added benefit of employing staff that live in the communities that they serve, however, the executive reflected that the partnerships and multi-regional team could play a stronger role in gathering and sharing information from the regions.
	2. The members noted that the success of the CCSF was partially due to the Fund being explicit regarding what organisations and groups would be funded. It was noted that continuing to be explicit in this way would be beneficial going forward. The Committee reflected that dedicating additional time to determining what impact they would like to have within the sector would further enhance their effectiveness. It was noted that, due to the Fund’s unique perspective, focus should be given to developing new ways of working with the sector. The members voiced the need to ensure they are still open to taking positive risks that could influence the way the sector operates and improve lives within communities.
5. **WHERE ARE WE NOW**
	1. The Committee was provided with an overview of the learnings generated from the strategic programmes. Three thousand organisations received awards from the programmes, providing place-based micro-funding that reached hyper-local, volunteer led groups. It was noted that there were many benefits of working in this way and that the end of strategic programmes should not mean the end of strategic partnerships and investment at the Fund.
	2. The members discussed future ways of working following the conclusion of the strategics. Emphasis was placed on building the Fund’s capacity for working in partnership. The Chair recommended that the Committee establish priority areas that they would like to be most impactful within. It was noted that, wherever possible, partnerships should be purposefully focused on areas of high need where opportunities to reduce barriers are greatest.
	3. The Committee reflected on the need to clearly identify and articulate priority areas and desired ways of working over the next three years to funding teams. A short document would be drafted and would indicate to funding colleagues the ‘what’ ‘where’ and ‘how’ regarding the implementation of the Committees goals.
	4. The Chair thanked the members and executive for their contributions to the day.
6. **REFLECTIONS ON THE DAY**
	1. The Committee held a closed session for members and the Interim England Directors.
	2. The meeting concluded at 16:00.

**SIGNED: DATE: 22/03/2022**

**John Mothersole**

**CHAIR**