**MEETING OF THE ENGLAND COMMITTEE – STRATEGIC DAY**

**12TH April 2022 – DAY 1**

**Microsoft Teams**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT: IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ray Coyle Member 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

Katie Crystal Governance Officer (minutes)

**FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS:**

Laura Furness Head of Funding, Strategic Programmes

**EXTERNAL GUESTS:**

Martin Sutherland CEO, City of Culture

Chenine Bhatenha Creative Director, City of Culture

Laura Pottinger, Trust & Foundations Manager, City of Culture

Kate Danielson Senior Producer, City of Culture

Jacqui Ibottson Producer, Rashford Bubbles

Christabell Amoakoh CEO, High Life Centre

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
   1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all.
   2. Apologies were received from John Mothersole, Rosie Ginday, Maggie Jones, Kevin Bone, Kim Forsyth and Ruhina Begum. Maggie and Rosie would join later for the roundtable event.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
   1. There were no declarations of interest.
3. **IMPACT & LEGACY PRESENTATION FROM THE CITY OF CULTURE**
   1. Martin and Chenine from the City of Culture gave a presentation on the impact and legacy of the programme. Coventry City of Culture invests in the local arts eco-system and drives change to retain talent, build for the future, and promote access, inclusion and sustainability.
   2. As of April 12th, 250,000 live engagements have been made through city-wide events. Additionally, there have been 300,000 digital engagements with the programme. One-hundred-and-six schools, 14 community centres and 9 community radio station are also involved.
   3. The legacy planning for the programme is now in its third and final stage. This phase includes ensuring that the Trust creates a model that contributes positively to the delivery of wider strategic objectives for the city. The Trust will continue until March of 2024 with a reduced team.
   4. The Committee thanked Martin and Chenine for their time and contributions to the programme.
4. **DISCUSSION WITH THE LOVE COVENTRY TEAM ON THE KEY LEARNINGS FROM THE PROGRAMME**
   1. Laura Pottinger and Kate Daneilson from the Love Coventry Team provided the Committee with an overview of the key learnings from the programme. Love Coventry is comprised of a suite of 26 projects that have been co-created with communities in Coventry. The Programme focuses on improving the spaces and places that matter to communities, bringing people together, and helping people reach their full potential.
5. **PRESENTATION ON THE RADFORD BUBBLES PROJECT**
   1. The Committee viewed a presentation on the Radford Bubbles Project. The project, which is part of the City of Culture, created an exhibition of ‘support bubbles’ in the community of Coventry during the Covid pandemic lockdown of 2020-2021. Subjects were photographed with the members of their support bubbles by ten emerging photographers from Coventry after the lockdown had ended and an exhibition of the art was held. The aim was to document how people came together during the pandemic and create memories for future generations.

*Rosie Ginday and Maggie Jones joined the meeting.*

1. **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS**
   1. The Committee held a roundtable discussion with community organisations that have received funding from TNLCF. The Participants were asked to reflect on the following questions:
2. What one word do you think best represents community?
3. What do you think a community needs to prosper and thrive?
4. What are the main challenges facing your community over the longer term that you may need help with?
5. What could TNLCF do differently in the future to support your community to respond to opportunities and challenges
   1. The Committee thanked the participants for their time and feedback. The meeting concluded at 17:00.

**MEETING OF THE ENGLAND COMMITTEE – STRATEGIC DAY**

**13TH April 2022 – DAY 2**

**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 Katie Crystal (minutes) Governance Officer

Ray Coyle Member

**FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS:**

Laura Furness Head of Funding, Strategic Programmes

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
   1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all.
   2. Apologies were received from Kim Forsyth and Ruhina Begum.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
   1. There were no declarations of interest.
3. **STRATEGY RENEWAL**
   1. The Committee discussed and provided feedback on the strategy renewal and stakeholder event. The members reflected that it was beneficial to hear from various organisations in the community. It was noted that organisations may not be able to provide feedback on long-term opportunities due to the current climate surrounding the pandemic.
   2. The Committee acknowledged that the pressures of the moment may not be the same five years into the new strategy. The members reflected the need to communicate that the England Directorate will always be responsive to the issues facing communities in the present time.
   3. Organisations that attended the roundtable event had provided feedback regarding the Fund’s application process. Community members had requested that the Fund provide further clarity to all applicants regarding what should be included in applications. Specifically, participants were interested in the Fund providing more information surrounding what statistics and stories to include in their applications to improve chances of being successful.
   4. Participants in the roundtable event had also highlighted the need for longer-term funding that would span 6-10 years.
   5. The Committee noted the need for the England portfolios funding to enhance the stability of infrastructure while also ensuring that it is directed towards and reaches the community level. The Committee emphasised the need to use their presence across England to encourage capacity building.
   6. The Members discussed their intention to submit feedback on the strategy renewal during the first phase. The members agreed to draft a submission prior to the May meeting of the Committee.

*Kevin Bone left the meeting due to a prior work commitment.*

1. **ENGLAND FUNDING 22/23** 
   1. The Committee discussed the latest version of the paper. The members reflected on the importance of ensuring that there is context provided on the challenges associated with living in 2022. The document should be clear that communities are best placed to identify the challenges that they face. The Fund should play in role in helping communities to identify these challenges.
   2. The Committee requested that the section on climate change be strengthened.
   3. The members noted that the language should be asset based as opposed to deficit based. Phrases such as ‘safety from harm’ should be replaced by language describing ‘safe communities’. The Committee noted the importance of the inclusion of the section on intersectionality.
   4. The members emphasised that the document should assist organisations in understanding their best chances for success when applying for grants. The Committee noted that information on fostering and building connections should also be included in the paper.
2. **REFLECTIONS ON THE DAY**
   1. The Committee reflected on the benefits of being face-to-face in the community and meeting grant holders. The value of having the local funding team present was also noted.
3. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** 
   1. Being that there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 15:30.

**SIGNED: DATE: 17/04/2022**

**John Mothersole**

**CHAIR**