

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CULTURE & SOCIAL IMPACT FUND
COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 19 APRIL 2021, VIRTUAL LIVE MEETING**

MEMBERS:

Councillor David Greenhalgh (Chair)	Portfolio Lead for Culture
Councillor Hilary Fairclough	Bolton Council
Councillor Jane Black	Bury Council
Councillor Luthfur Rahman	Manchester City Council
Councillor Janet Emsley	Rochdale Council
Councillor Stephen Coen	Salford City Council
Councillor Kate Butler	Stockport Council
Councillor Elizabeth Patel	Trafford Council

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Alison Mckenzie-Folan	Lead Chief Executive for Culture
Sam Elliott	Bolton Council
Zoe Williams	Manchester CC
Sabnum Hariff-Khan	Oldham Council
Peter Ashworth	Stockport Council
Sheena MacFarlane	Oldham Council
Marie-Claire Daly	GMCA
Alison Gordon	GMCA
Jenny Hollamby	GMCA
Kerry Bond	GMCA
Steve Annette	GMCA
Kerry Bond	GMCA
Darren Grice	Link4Life

S&SIFC/01/21

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Norman Briggs (Oldham), David Lancaster (Salford), Leanne Feeley (Tameside) and Paul Prescott (Wigan).

S&SIFC/02/21

**CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT
BUSINESS**

The Chair explained how the virtual meeting would be conducted and the procedure and protocols to be adopted throughout the meeting.

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

S&SIFC/03/21

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Janet Emsley declared a personal interest in Item 5 – Greater Manchester Culture Recovery Plan and In Year Review by virtue of her GMCA appointment on the Hallé Orchestra Board and being Portfolio Holder for a Safer and Inclusive Community at Rochdale Council, which included Link4Life.

Councillor Jane Black declared a personal interest in Item 5 – Greater Manchester Culture Recovery Plan and In Year Review by virtue of her appointment as Trustee of the Bury Metropolitan Arts Board.

S&SIFC/04/21

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 3 SEPTEMBER 2020

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the last meeting held on 3 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

S&SIFC/05/21

GREATER MANCHESTER CULTURE RECOVERY PLAN & IN YEAR REVIEW

It was explained that in February 2020, GMCA agreed the two-year Greater Manchester Culture budget, which included £3.5m a year support to 35 cultural organisations from across Greater Manchester and £270k p/a to support strategic activity that delivered the ambitions outlined in the Greater Manchester Culture Strategy that could not be delivered by a single organisation.

In March 2020 cultural organisations in Greater Manchester closed their doors because of the Covid-19 national lockdown. Whilst many managed to deliver activity during lockdown and beyond, the sector nationally and across Greater Manchester continued to be in a precarious position, with many still unable to open venues and operate and most unable to generate earned income, vital to the long-term sustainability of the sector.

Whilst it had been a challenging year for one of the sectors hit hardest by the pandemic, significant activity had taken place that had supported people and places through the first year of the pandemic. The activity was outlined in detail in Appendix A of the report.

As the rollout of the vaccine continued, the report outlined how the GMCA would work with the sector and partners across Greater Manchester to emerge from the pandemic and contribute to the wider national and local recovery and presented for agreement a draft Greater Manchester Cultural Recovery Plan detailed in Appendix B of the report.

The key points referred:

- a) Any questions that were not answered by the report should be forwarded to the GMCA's Culture and Creative Policy Principal.
- b) The Chair thanked Officers for the report and commented that culture would play a huge part in the wellbeing recovery of residents coming out of the pandemic.
- c) A Member asked about commemorative events and Local Authorities (LA). Conversations had commenced last week with Officers. It was explained that the current focus was on reopening. However, within the next month information on what events were taking place in Greater Manchester would be gathered. It was envisaged that events would take place in summer 2021 when restrictions had been lifted and venues were open. Cultural organisations within the portfolio would also be consulted. Once a programme was developed, it would be shared with residents.
- d) A Member raised paragraph 2.2 of the report and the size of the cultural economy sector in Greater Manchester. It was suggested that more emphasis should be placed on this to raise awareness.
- e) In terms of the Greater Manchester Covid Commissions, it was reported that Bury Council had supported six of their own grants this year. It was important that this be continued and developed.
- f) A Member commented that the link with the regeneration of town centres especially high streets was crucial and creative improvement should be strengthened with the work of LAs. It was explained that LAs had been asked to contact the GMCA for support. A presentation had been provided at the Directors of Place meeting to raise awareness and to make sure culture was a feature of funding.
- g) Officers were asked for further information about strengthening the support for volunteers. It was reported that conversations were taking place with the GMCA's Voluntary Sector Lead to work out how cultural volunteering fitted into the wider volunteering picture and how they would be supported.
- h) The Chair commented that culture should be a focus for all LAs in terms of funding and planning. It was important that collaborative work with LAs take place regularly.
- i) A Member was sad to see that some organisations previously funded by the GMCA had not received funding from other streams.
- j) Popup events that complied with Covid restrictions were highlighted as the way forward.
- k) A Member was pleased that the United We Stream event could potentially become more permanent.

- l) In terms of the roadmap, a live comedy event was planned in Trafford from 17 May 2021 as part of the pride in Trafford programme. The event was being broadcast live and for half the price residents could watch from home. In terms of audience confidence, this was suggested as a way forward. The Hear and Now installation as part of the twenty fifth birthday lottery celebrations would be open from 17 May 2021.
- m) A Member asked how well the culture portfolio was working with other GMCA areas and priorities. It was further asked if culture resources be used to target groups such as young people and those that were shielding that had lost confidence through the pandemic. It was explained that once the full picture of activities and a programme was known, gaps would be identified, and work would take place with the relevant organisations to develop those areas.
- n) At the next meeting, the Chair asked for factual detail and information on what cultural activity had taken place, the successes and where there had been issues. It would also be beneficial for the Committee to assess the reopening of venues and how this had taken place. Members also requested a report on partnership development, learning and new ways of working. It was also suggested that learning from Liverpool's large event experiment be considered.
- o) Any Member wanting to serve as a Contact Theatre Board Member was asked to contact the GMCA's Culture and Creative Policy Principal.

RESOLVED/-

1. The Greater Manchester and national activity to date, including the GMCA Culture Year In Review was noted by the Committee.
2. That the Committee discussed the Greater Manchester Culture Recovery Plan as noted above.

S&SIFC/06/21

DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that a meeting would take place in June 2021.