

Appendix 1 – Stronger Communities Programme

One of the 9 Legacy workstreams for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games is Community Cohesion, Inclusion and Pride. As the Proud Host City, Birmingham has a leading role to play in ensuring that the Games ambition – “the Games for Everyone” – is realised across the city, in a way that makes sense to and is owned by our communities.

The Stronger Communities programme is owned by BCC and aligns the city’s priorities around community cohesion and inclusion directly with the Commonwealth Games. It has 5 key objectives:

- Ensuring our workplaces reflect the communities we serve
- Building strong relationships between different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds across our diverse communities
- Helping under-represented groups and communities to actively participate in civic life – especially in areas where social capital is low
- Identify and amplify untapped cultural and community assets from all of the communities across the city
- Increase pride in ‘being a Brummie’ and sharing the stories & experiences of all of our communities

It has 3 key roles to play within the Games Partnership

- Providing a mechanism for Birmingham citizens to provide constructive challenge, advice and feedback to all Games Legacy workstreams through the creation of a community stakeholder panel, ensuring that tackling inequality is the cross-cutting thread that runs through all of the Games Legacy workstreams.
- Work alongside communities in Birmingham to design and deliver £0.5m worth of projects falling under 3 themes – Inclusive City, Connected City, Know Your City – taking into account learning and feedback from the recent Community Cohesion consultation as well as learning from communities throughout the COVID pandemic.
- Ensuring that all BCC contributions to Games projects, whether the Council is leading, sponsoring or contributing, meet the council’s commitment to tackling inequalities and supporting greater cohesion and inclusive approaches.

How will this be delivered?

Community Stakeholder Panel –

- Design of the panel is underway with a view to recruitment being completed by 31st March 2021. This piece of work is being led by BCC’s Equalities Team.
- The panel will be comprised of people from diverse backgrounds, drawn together to advise and support on the delivery of CWG legacy activities across our diverse communities. The membership will comprise of citizens, politicians, representatives from arts organisations, faith communities and young people.
- In an effort to ensure the city’s extant networks are able to feel more included in Games planning it is proposed to request nominations from groups already in existence for example the youth City Board, covid champions, disability networks, diversity networks, LGBTQ+ networks, the Faith Leaders Group, student unions and more. We will also work with colleagues in communities to identify locality based champions.
- The panel will not be a constituted entity, but will act as a reflective voice on behalf of communities, acting as a sounding board, steer and source of ideas for all legacy workstreams.

Stronger Communities Projects

£0.5m of funding will be allocated to the Stronger Communities programme to deliver projects under the three themes – Inclusive City, Connected City, Know your City. These themes were born out of the Council’s community cohesion consultation responses and are

also reflective of the themes running through the “Everyone’s Battle, Everyone’s Business” paper that sets out the Council’s commitments to tackling inequalities, and the subsequent engagement work. Example projects within these themes include:

- the creation of a network of heritage trails around the city, linking those that exist in communities with new ones, reflecting valued community assets and community definitions of heritage
- projects supporting language skills, recognising that c47,500 people in Birmingham are unable to speak English or speak English well, but also celebrating the variety and diversity of languages that are spoken within our international city.
- ‘We Made Birmingham’ – project that collects stories of migration and the contribution our diverse communities have made and continue to make to the life of the city.

Leadership and Governance

The Equalities Team within BCC will be leading the programme. As part of pre-work to ensure an inclusive approach to the design and delivery of projects, BVSC have been commissioned by the Equalities team to develop a framework that will

- i. Set out good practice guidelines for effective, inclusive and meaningful engagement with communities designed to maximise participation, inclusion and contribution to planned CWG legacy activities.
- ii. An indicative framework for commissioning projects/activities most likely to support inclusion, cohesion, engagement and equality within and across the three legacy themes of Inclusive City, Connected City and Know Your City.
- iii. Good practice guidelines for ensuring funding access and distribution is effective and inclusive.

The framework will be completed by 31st March 2021 enabling the programme to mobilise from 1st April 2021 when funding comes on-line.

The Stronger Communities programme will report into BCC’s Legacy Committee (chaired by the Assistant Chief Executive) and be subject to robust programme governance and monitoring as part of the Council’s wider Commonwealth Games Programme and BCC’s Legacy Evaluation Framework.

Subject to Cabinet agreement, any funding allocations will be ratified by this Committee utilising the Council’s scheme of delegations and in line with relevant procurement and financial guidelines; in the event of a sum exceeding the delegated authority of the BCC Legacy Committee Chair it will be referred to the relevant Cabinet Member for decision.

