GM Spatial Framework – VCSE workshop discussion

10th July 2019
Mustard Tree, 110 Oldham Road, Ancoats, Manchester,
M4 6AG

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Welcome and introduction

Alex Whinnom
GMCVO

GMCA

Purpose

For a group of stakeholder experts from voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises to discuss and agree how the sector might be involved in the next stage of developing the GM Spatial Framework, with a particular focus on how the Framework describes the process and arrangements for 'Shaping Places with Communities'.

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Scene setting – previous discussion in February

Anne Lythgoe

- **Communities -** Within a locality the accommodation available should reflect the life course transition those communities go through. But it should also reflect the specific needs of particular communities and be co-designed. Better definition needed of 'social infrastructure'.

- **Diversity -** ageing, disability and social / community cohesion

- **Community impact assessments**

- **Green spaces and environment -** new development should provide new green spaces. All neighbourhoods need to have planned green infrastructure.

- **Linkages -** where does it link up to GM Moving, Local Industrial Strategy, for example?

- **Threats to VCSE -** VCSE sector is going to be priced out of some places where we offer our services.

- **Social value** - Social value should be a key thread in the Framework - and not just procurement and contractual obligations

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- Growth areas for social and community enterprise - Could land be ring fenced to reflect VCSE activity. Could we create 'community business zones' or 'social enterprise zones'?

- Community anchors - designated community anchor organisations and have them pinpointed on the map. Developer requirement to go talk to that designated organisation. This might also include communities of interest. Community anchors could put more powers in community hands.

- Community engagement - the VCSE sector could support this

- Asset mapping - VCSE also need to map out where we are and link with public sector asset mapping

- UTILISE – designated community anchor organisations, DO – community impact assessments, ENSURE – good employment practice (including real living wage) and social value generated throughout (social, economic and environmental difference), DESIGN IN - community cohesion, community and social infrastructure, ALLOW - community asset transfer and local ownership, PROTECT AND ENHANCE green and blue infrastructure and let us help here – VCSE could have a huge role in this where public budgets are being cut…. (don't just not have green space because there isn't a budget for the council to adopt it…)

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Scene setting – what has been happening since February?

Anne Morgan

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- How issues raised fitted into other responses from the initial consultation
- What's happening now... next steps with development of the GM Spatial Framework
- Where are the opportunities for further work together?

REMINDER - The objectives of Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment are to:

- Meet our housing need
- Create neighbourhoods of choice
- Create a thriving and productive economy in all parts of Greater Manchester
- Maximise the potential arising from our national and international assets
- Reduce inequalities and improve prosperity
- Promote the sustainable movement of people and goods and information
- Promote climate resilience, reduce carbon emissions and make Greater Manchester carbon-neutral city region
- Improve the quality of our natural environment and access to green spaces
- Ensure access to physical and social infrastructure

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Any questions – points for clarification?

Agreeing practical topics around which to work together

Discussion on tables: the following ideas emerged from the previous workshop and the consultation responses. Do these feel like things where VCSE involvement would add value to the Spatial Framework? Are there other issues that you feel that its important have VCSE input at this stage?

- Describing **how 'social value' could be applied as an approach** across the Spatial Framework as a way to achieve impact
- Guidance for **creating lifetime communities** in GM
- **Defining community / VCSE anchors** as part of 'community infrastructure'
- Describing how to create space for emergent social sectors – **"charity quarters" / "social enterprise zones"**
- Others…….

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PLENARY:

Agreeing the '**top 3**' themes to work together on to input to the next iteration of the Spatial Framework?

Scoping a plan of action

Discussion on tables:

Allocate one of the 'top 3' themes to each of 3 groups and ask participants to scope out a plan of action… Allow 20 minutes for initial discussion and then rotate to allow others to input on other topics. Rotate twice.

Outline action planning – complete a 'template' on flip chart paper covering:

- What is/are the task(s)?
- How might we work together to address this task?
- Who should be involved?
- What might be the products?

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PLENARY:

General feedback on emerging activities

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BREAK – 10 minutes

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Considering the process of engagement

General discussion about the process currently in use for consultations and engagement around the GM Spatial Framework

- What worked and what didn't (and for whom)?
- Are there additional things that GMCA could do next time round?
- How can the VCSE sector support better engagement (and with whom)?

Whole group discussion – 20 minutes

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Final thoughts and next steps

Warren Escadale and Anne Morgan

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