

A MANIFESTO FOR A NEW RELATIONSHIP
between
The GM Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector
and
The GM Mayor and Combined Authority

In advance of the mayoral elections, GMCVO invites all candidates to respond to our offer of a new and more powerful relationship with the local voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. We would like to build on the strength of our existing relationships, and the opportunity presented by devolution, and agree a set of principles for the role of our sector in the city region.

FROM THE LOCAL VCSE SECTOR

Greater Manchester is home to c15000 voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations. We are well-networked with strong, devolved leadership and established communications channels and we are able to convene and act as a sector around general or specific strategic objectives. VCSE organisations are already working across every aspect of Greater Manchester devolution including skills, employment and enterprise; health and social care; housing and transport; environment and carbon reduction; poverty reduction; inclusive economic growth and inclusive governance. We offer:-

1. Our commitment to the vision of a city region in which all residents are valued and included
2. Our ability to engage, inform, consult, support and mobilise residents and communities, including those not reached by politicians or the public sector
3. Our wide and deep knowledge of the opportunities and barriers experienced by communities of locality, identity and experience
4. Our expertise in social innovation and our learning from trialling new approaches to difficult problems
5. Our independent resources including volunteers and funding which we can align with public and private sector resources to achieve common goals

In return we ask:-

FROM THE GMCA AND THE MAYOR

1. Acknowledgement of our common aims and values
2. Recognition of the existing contribution of VCSE organisations to the success of Greater Manchester
3. Recognition of the inextricable connection between economic, social and political inclusion and the importance of the VCSE sector in that interface
4. Recognition of role of social and community enterprise in rebalancing local economies and driving economic inclusion
5. A clear strategy for the development and support of independent voluntary and community action and enterprise, and resident and community involvement, embedded within the (revised) GM Strategy - for GM and for every local authority
6. An investment strategy based on this which is not a “postcode lottery” and includes imaginative funding and commissioning models
7. Systematic consideration when developing other strategies of the potential contribution of the VCSE sector and the possible impact on VCSE activity (VCSE impact analysis) – including consultation and co-design with VCSE organisations
8. The opportunity to be represented on GM and locality strategic boards and working groups, by appropriate and accountable individuals chosen by relevant VCSE stakeholders
9. Structural funding for maintaining our internal leadership, communications and networking systems and interacting with the public sector
10. Social value systematically considered and included in all purchasing, commissioning and contracting decisions
11. An explicit commitment to reducing inequalities and poverty, with meaningful targets set, and an acknowledgement of the importance of the VCSE sector in achieving them
12. A Volunteering Strategy - for GM and for each local authority