

**West of Scotland Regional Equality Council Ltd**  
**58<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Directors**  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 6.00pm  
WSREC, 39 Napiershall Street, Glasgow, G20 6EZ  
3rd meeting after AGM

**Minutes**

**Present**

**Board of Directors**

1. Hanzala Malik (HM) Chair
2. Vince Chudy (VC)
3. Harriette Campbell (HC)
4. Haji Mohammed Munir (MM)
5. Dr Malcolm Green (MG)
6. Onkar Singh Jandu (OSJ)
7. Dr J Gill (JG)
8. Sheela Mukherjee (SM)
9. John Service (JS)
10. Munir Choudry (MC)

**Observers**

- Bob Chadha (North  
Lanarkshire Council)  
Bill Craig (COPFS)

**In attendance**

- Mohammed Razaq (MR)  
Tauseef Khan (Minute Taker)  
Caroline McKoen (CM)

**1. Apologies**

**Board of Directors**

1. Anne McTaggart (AM)
2. Cllr Rashid Hussain (RH)
3. Syed Jafri (SJ)
4. Antony Kozlowski (AK)
5. Sharon Schlesinger (SS)

**Observers**

- Stuart Cassidy – COPFS  
Graeme Stirling – Police Scotland

**2. Welcome**

Chair Hanzala Malik welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**3. Presentation one of WSREC's projects**

A presentation on WSREC's new project on participatory budgeting '**Over to you – Be empowered**' was made by Caroline McKoen (Project Co-ordinator). The presentation was a quick summary on what the project was about.

Project will engage and empower local communities with particular focus on minority ethnic communities/groups and local initiatives in 4 key areas: Glasgow North and South, Renfrewshire and North Lanarkshire.

Delivery aims are:

1. Raising awareness of participatory budgeting process for local communities in particular within ethnic minority communities.
2. Encourage individuals to be part of planning and decision making process.
3. Provide a platform for empowering communities resulting in ownership.
4. Capacity build local organisations and community groups by providing an opportunity and offer services that much needed in the area.

The **six** month project will:

- Organise and develop funding applications and processes which will be easily accessible and transparent based on the themes noted above.
- Market the opportunities with the 4 areas encouraging local initiatives and groups to apply.
- Sift through received applications to ensure eligibility of criteria is met

- Organise one event in each area inviting local communities to attend to allow final decision to be made on the area where the public budget will be spent.
- Provision of successful applicants with advice and guidance on how to deliver and evaluate.

The presentation was well received and after some questions the Board thanked Caroline McKoen for the presentation.

#### 4. Minutes of the previous meetings

Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were approved as a true and accurate record with one change that John Service had offered his apologies for the meeting.

#### 5. Matters Arising

##### ACTIONS:

- Notice to be sent to Rena Bradley and Mrs Tasnim Karim of their successful acceptance to the Membership Panel: MR reported that this was carried out
- MR to forward list of all WSREC Committee's including membership to AK  
MR reported that he had liaised with HM to decide which committee's AK would serve on. After consideration AK decided he would serve on the Finance and Strategy committees.

##### Observers photo and bio in the Annual Report

BC mentioned that at the meeting **before** the AGM he was asked to send along a photo and a bio to WSREC so that it could appear in the WSREC Annual Report. BC arranged a photo and bio to be sent but stated that it did not appear in the Annual Report. BC enquired as to why this was the case after it had been agreed in the meeting. MR stated that only the Board members and staff appear in the Annual Report. HM advised BC that the previous minutes will be checked to see if this was raised and discussed. If BC was asked to send along a photo when it was not needed then it was an error by the organisation of which HM apologised for.

##### **ACTION**

MR to check previous minutes to see if placing observer photos and bios in the annual report was discussed.

#### 6. For discussion

##### a. Finance – Variance statement for Month of September 2016

**Expenditure:** actual **£49,904** and budgeted **£42,528** with a variance of **-£7,375**. This was mostly due to higher salary expenditure than budgeted due to WSREC being successful in securing funding to continue the GCRP, Living Equality and MESS Projects.

**Income** actual **£35,347** and budgeted **£6,431** with a variance of **-£28,916**

The variance report was noted by the Board

##### b. Quarterly Staff Reports

The quarterly staff reports were noted

##### c. Partner Reports

- Police Scotland (apologies received with no report provided)
- Scottish Prison Service (no representation or report provided)
- Crown and Procurator Fiscals Service (COPFS)

Bill Craig reported that COPFS with their partners Police Scotland have been keeping a close eye on the issue of Hate Crime. COPFS has well embedded policies on hate crime of all kinds and are well placed to deal with these crimes when they are detected and reported to them. COPFS have very robust policies on the persecution of these crimes and the service is well geared up to when and as they are reported to the police. Bill affirmed that they can only act when they are in the possession of the police report and the police can only report to them when they have the necessary evidence.

Bill Craig is currently the lead for the 'South Strathclyde and Dumfries Galloway Diversity Network'. In that role he has linked up with his colleagues in Police Scotland to get a good idea of what is actually happening out there. From what he has heard in the group today does chime with his own understanding of what is happening after the Brexit vote. Bill Craig affirmed that his organisation are aware of these facts and are keeping a close eye on them. Bill assured the group that their policies will insure these cases are robustly dealt at the highest level.

Lastly Bill attended the UK Hate Crime Awareness week event where the new Lord Advocate James Wolfe QC made a pledge. Bill shared the key points of the pledge:

*"COPFS are committed to tackling hate crime. I am proud of that work. All people in Scotland are entitled to live their lives free from violence, intimidation and prejudice".*

*"The prosecution service, along with our colleagues in Police Scotland, plays an essential role in creating an environment in which all people who live in Scotland, regardless of their personal or social circumstances, can have confidence that they live in a just society and that they will be protected from crime – and in particular from hate crime."*

## **7. Correspondence**

- Letter of thanks from Jeanne Freeman MSP – Minister for Social Security to WSREC for assisting with a group session with its client group from Eastern European Communities for the Minister to obtain information in relation to issues and concerns after the Brexit vote.
- Letter from Citizens Advice Bureau – advising that WSREC was represented on the Board of Central Glasgow Citizen Bureau 2016/17 and that WSREC's Mohammed Razaq had been elected to serve as 'Group' Director and Chair.
- An email from Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)- that they provided a comprehensive Banking facility in particular to the charity sector and all profits made were put back into the sector.
- Invitation email from ELREC to Equality Champions' Gala Dinner at the Herriot Watt University on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 6.30pm. Harriette Campbell volunteered to attend.

It was agreed to request ELREC to waive the cost allowing WSREC to attend.

### **ACTION**

ELREC to be contacted to waive the costs of the ticket to attend

**8. Update Community ownership of 'Napiershall Street Centre'****ACTION: Explore the issue about community asset transfer of 'Napiershall Street Centre'**

MR reported that he had written to the owners of the building 'City Property'. They responded and suggested that any assets they have do not come under the legislation 'Community Empowerment Bill'. The only way possible is if Glasgow City Council requested the building to go back into their portfolio. In the meantime, City Property is in the process of evaluating all their assets on whether they wish to keep or sell them on. City Property affirmed that if they decide to sell a building than this would result in open market deal with a buyer and not sold under the 'Community Empowerment Bill'. They advised MR that in March 2017 they will have made a decision on whether to keep or sell 'Napiershall Street Centre'. MR mentioned that he and MG met up with the Chair (Anna Dyer) and CEO Mark McRitchie of the Community Centre Halls who are in the verge of taking ownership of their building from the city council. MR mentioned they were very helpful and have offered their time and help. MR also looked into a website called 'Community Ownership Support Service' funded by the Scottish Government which supports this kind of venture. Next step for MG and MR is to start exploring within the council of an option the building being transferred back to City Council and then WSREC being able exercise its right to open negotiations for a Community Asset Transfer.

The Board agreed to keep pursuing Community ownership of the Centre.

**9. Report SAREC- MR provided a report**

He continued to support WSREC's Board members at SAREC Board meetings. Also WSREC being the Sectariat for SAREC he was the named individual from WSREC. After consultation with other REC CEO's WSREC submitted an application to Awards for All for £10,000 on behalf of SAREC to carry out a piece of research to ascertain the support or lack of to victims of Hate Crime across the areas served by SAREC partners. The application was successful and the research work is underway with Survey questionnaires returns assessed along with ongoing work on Focus groups. Responses for both the survey questionnaire and focus groups are going to be analysed by WSREC and a report prepared for SAREC by end of the year. MR also reported the through Dave Black on GREC we have completed and application for £50,000 to work with the connected Awards for All fund by invitation of the funder.

The Board noted the report and also wished to put on record a thank you to Dave Black at GREC for his hard work.

**10. A.O.C.B.**

1. HC complained about the ongoing heating issue with 'Napiershall Street Centre'. HC felt that this was a matter of health and safety and City Property should be contacted. MR advised HC that WSREC's office manager has sent out numerous emails and has had meetings with City Property about this. MR assured HC that they have done all that could be done and will continued to do until this matter is resolved. However, it was agreed to write to the Landlord on behalf of the Board detailing concerns.

**Action**

WSREC's Landlord 'City Property' is written to on behalf of the Board with their concerns

2. HC tendered her apologies for December's Board meeting.

**11. Date and Times of future meetings**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**All meeting are at 6:00pm in meeting room ground floor, WSREC offices.**