

**BIG LOTTERY FUND
MEETING OF BIG LOTTERY FUND ENGLAND COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2013**

MINUTES

PRESENT:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Nat Sloane | <i>England Chair (in the Chair)</i> |
| Albert Tucker | <i>England Committee Vice-Chair</i> |
| Alan Billings | <i>England Committee Member</i> |
| Geeta Gopalan | <i>England Committee Member</i> |
| Scott Greenhalgh | <i>England Committee Member</i> |
| Steve Richards | <i>England Committee Member</i> |
| Danny Silverstone | <i>England Committee Member</i> |
| Geoff Wilkinson | <i>England Committee Member</i> |
| Nalini Varma | <i>England Committee Member</i> |

IN ATTENDANCE:

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|---------------------|--|
| Peter Wanless | <i>Chief Executive (Items 4 & 5)</i> |
| Dharmendra Kanani | <i>Director, England</i> |
| Shaun Walsh | <i>Deputy Director of Communications</i> |
| Tim Davies-Pugh | <i>Deputy Director, England</i> |
| Andrew Morris | <i>Deputy Director, England</i> |
| Ambreen Shah | <i>Deputy Director, England</i> |
| Lyn Cole | <i>Strategic Business Executive</i> |
| Andrew Hudson | <i>Senior Adviser</i> |
| Jon Fox | <i>Head of Policy (Item 3)</i> |
| Graeme Howe | <i>Senior Head of Funding (Item 3)</i> |
| Jane Meara | <i>Head of Funding (Item 3)</i> |
| Paul Jones | <i>Head of Region (Item 3)</i> |
| Dan Paskins | <i>Senior Policy and Learning Manager (Item 3)</i> |
| Matt Anderson | <i>Funding Manager (Item 3)</i> |
| Amanda Todd | <i>Corporate Manager (Secretariat)</i> |
| Morven Wright-Whyte | <i>Corporate Officer (Support)</i> |

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1.1 No declarations of interest were received.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies were received from Albert Tucker for agenda items 4 and 5.

3. DEMAND LED FUNDING AND DELEGATIONS

3.1 Tim Davies-Pugh introduced the paper and set the discussions in the context of England's desire to provide a fuller offer, including demand led funding, in the England portfolio and the new ways of working envisaged within the Connecting England project. Graeme Howe outlined the key elements of the approach.

3.2 In discussion, the following key points were highlighted:

- i) While there is a general consensus for a move to greater delegations, the significant change for all parties is recognised.
- ii) Any change would be an iterative process, building on learning, and subject to a six month review.
- iii) A consequence of greater delegations will be extra reporting with Committee requiring different information to monitor, track progress and ensure their continued connection with the programme.

- 3.3 It was agreed that officers should prepare a revised paper which addresses a number of key areas including the rationale; benefits for BIG and applicants; governance arrangements; presentational and equalities implications; and details of information that Committee would receive to provide assurance on the new process. This would be presented at the March England Committee, alongside a discussion on how this work links to the vision around Connecting England. Committee were invited to submit any additional comments to Officers by correspondence. **ACTION: Graeme Howe**

4. OLDER PEOPLE STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

- 4.1 Ambreen Shah and England Committee leads presented an update on the proposed delivery methodology for the older people strategy, setting out the area selection process for the agreed £70m investment to tackle social isolation, and providing more detail on the Centre of Excellence proposal.

4.2 Social Isolation Investment

- 4.2.1 The proposal and decision making methodology for the targeted approach to area selection were outlined. It was highlighted that these had been developed in consultation with cohorts and key stakeholders. The recommended process seeks to balance the need for a competitive process alongside limiting resources expended by applicants through low success rates.

- 4.2.2 In discussion, the following key points were noted:

- i) The selection of an initial 100 local authorities would provide a good spread and balance across England
- ii) An area-based approach would allow the relationship between isolation and poverty to be investigated and feed into wider learning
- iii) The value that sector experts can bring to help move BIG along the 'experience curve' with regards to strategic investments is recognised.
- iv) The remit of the Cabinet Office's Behavioural Insights Team ["to find innovative ways of encouraging, enabling and supporting people to make better choices for themselves"] was highlighted given the importance of behavioural psychology in this field
- v) The £70m investment was not intended to provide services, examples of which were provided in the paper, but rather to galvanise communities.
- vi) Officers were requested to consider a shorter time frame for this investment, and whether the £70m was the right quantum, once expressions of interest were received. **ACTION: Ambreen Shah**

4.2.3 The England Committee agreed:

- i) **The recommended approach to area selection and decision making process for the £70m investment addressing social isolation.**

4.3 Centre of Excellence

- 4.3.1 The vision, key principles of the Centre of Excellence and cost breakdown of the individual elements of the investment were presented. It was highlighted that the majority of funding will focus on 'seeding and scaling' to ensure this becomes a 'doing centre' with credibility from the outset.

- 4.3.2 In discussion the following key points were noted:

- i) The ambitious nature of the proposal was recognised and welcomed by a number of stakeholders, who considered BIG was the only funder with the capacity to work on this scale.

- ii) The Committee questioned if the need for the Centre resulted from a limited evidence base in this particular field. Officers noted that while the initial scoping was limited it has been tested with key sector experts on a number of different occasions. All have confirmed there is an evidence gap in this field that needs to be addressed, noting its unique selling point being the balance between thinking and doing. Officers also confirmed this need would be further tested as work begins to fully scope out the specification for this Centre. This will be done with engagement of the sector experts and older people.
- iii) The learning from Silver Dreams investments would provide early opportunities to scale up and replicate.
- iv) There was a case for narrowing the focus of the Centre, eg to social isolation and/or transitions in life for older people. Final decisions on the focus of the Centre of Excellence will influence how this is communicated externally
- v) The Committee leads and executives raised the issue of the structure for establishing the Centre and for balancing the Centre's independence with ensuring sufficient BIG influence/control.
- vi) A number of areas would be addressed in more detail during future procurement and delivery discussions, including the Centre's name, scope, governance structure, and the overall investment level and allocation to the four functions: **Synthesising** (identifying existing evidence of early intervention and preventative approaches and classifying these); **Seeding** (testing and developing innovative ways for communities to support a good quality of life in ageing where evidence is weak); **Scaling** (encouraging actively the replication and routes to scale of projects which are shown to work) and **Sharing** (advocating and promoting what works to older people and practitioners to build stronger communities in which older people actively shape priorities).

4.3.4 The England Committee agreed:

- i) **To set up a centre of excellence on Ageing Better**
- ii) **EC leads would work with Officers on detailed scoping of the investment, including further refinement of its focus**
- iii) **Approval for the delivery model would be made by Chair's Action (March 2013)**

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Wellbeing Investment 2013-15

The Chair advised Committee of the challenge of managing NLDF balances and previous discussions on opportunities for additional funds to be allocated to existing programmes for spend before 2015. In this regard, Tim Davies-Pugh tabled a proposal to commit £40million to existing grantholders in the Wellbeing programme, noting the support of the EC Wellbeing Leads for this investment. The Chair asked Committee to submit any comments for Officer response by 15 February 2013. **ACTION: England Committee**

5.2 The decisions and discussion of the Reaching Communities Decision making committee are recorded in RC(M13)02.

5.3 The Committee noted the discussion relating to the Talent Match major initiatives review.

The meeting closed at 14.25

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next England Committee meeting will be held on 12-13 March 2013 in Newcastle.

MINUTES AGREED

DATE MARCH 2013

ENGLAND CHAIR