

Salford Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector Election Manifesto 2024

Introduction

In advance of the 2024 Salford Mayoral elections, we invite all candidates to commit to prioritising and further developing their relationship with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in Salford. In light of current challenges faced by our public sector colleagues and our local communities, our offer to the City is increasingly vital and relevant. Our ability to mobilise in a coordinated way at scale was clearly evidenced during the COVID pandemic and continues during the Cost of Living crisis. We now want to go beyond the principles we agreed in Salford's VCSE Manifesto (2016) and corresponding VCSE Strategy, signed up to by the current Mayor, Salford City Council and the NHS in Salford, inviting the candidates to commit to all of the asks contained within this Manifesto - which will enable the VCSE sector to create real change for the benefit of our people and communities of Salford.

About the VCSE sector in Salford

According to the State of the VCSE Sector in Salford 2021 report, Salford is home to 1,665 voluntary organisations, community groups, charities, and social enterprises. We are well networked through our Vocal VCSE Strategic Forums and peer support networks (facilitated by Salford CVS), which enable a strong distributive leadership approach and representation on all of the city's strategic partnerships. VCSE organisations work across every aspect of life in Salford, including skills, employment, and enterprise; wellbeing, health and social care; housing and homelessness; environment, poverty reduction, social value, and inclusive economic growth. There are also a significant number of volunteers in our sector - over 60,000, who support us in our work and who provide an estimated £104 million per annum of social value and economic benefit to the city of Salford.

Relationships between the VCSE sector and public bodies

There are a number of frameworks that define relationships between the VCSE sector and public sector bodies in Salford, including:

www.salfordcvs.co.uk/salford-compact

www.salfordcvs.co.uk/vcse-manifesto-and-strategy

www.vcseleadershipgm.org.uk/about-the-vcse-accord/

www.vcseleadershipgm.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Commissioning-Framework-2021.pdf

The role of elected Mayor of Salford is a position of significant power, so we ask you to exercise that duty wisely, with transparency and integrity, in order to help maintain our city's vibrant and independent VCSE sector.

During your term of office as the elected Salford City Mayor, we ask you to commit to the following:

- 1** **Utilising strategic support to maintain and increase sustainable investment into the VCSE sector** as a % of public sector spend, including committing to working with Salford CVS to explore developing a community investment levy to help achieve this.
- 2** **Expediting the delivery of the Greater Manchester VCSE Commissioning Framework and Delivery Plan in Salford.**
- 3** **Ensuring parity of esteem for Salford's VCSE sector in relation to public sector services**, by including cost of living increases on grants and contracts and by not expecting the VCSE sector to continue to subsidise the work of the public sector.[1]
- 4** **Ensuring fairness in contract management of VCSE sector commissioned organisations** by not holding the sector to greater account than internal public services.
- 5** **Protecting a vibrant and independent VCSE sector** by ensuring Salford City Council does not use tools such as insourcing to undermine and weaken VCSE sector organisations in Salford.
- 6** **Supporting distributive leadership** by ensuring and resourcing spaces at decision-making tables for a wide range of VCSE sector leaders, via Salford CVS.
- 7** **Valuing the role that volunteering plays in our city and ensuring it is resourced properly** (because coordinating volunteering costs money, alongside which there are also direct costs to resource such as volunteer out-of-pocket expenses).
- 8** **Recognising the leading role the VCSE sector plays in helping to tackle poverty in Salford**, by committing to, and resourcing the creation of a multi-agency Salford Tackling Poverty Alliance, led by Salford CVS and Vocal VCSE Leaders.
- 9** **Acknowledging that the VCSE sector are the experts** in accessing communities of geography, identity, experience, and interest. Therefore, agreeing to invest in and support an asset-based approach that involves communities, people with lived experience, and the VCSE sector in planning, delivery, and evaluation of services.
- 10** **Endorsing the Salford VCSE Strategy and Greater Manchester VCSE Accord** and ensuring that Salford Council Officers work in accordance with these agreements.

1. www.ncvo.org.uk/news-and-insights/news-index/the-true-cost-of-delivering-public-services/what-were-calling-for/