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REPORT OF THE CITY MAYOR

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TO COUNCIL

ON WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

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TITLE: CENTRE FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC STRATEGIES (CLES)

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RECOMMENDATIONS: Note the report which outlines the focus of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) activities as one of the outside bodies which Salford City Council is represented.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) is the national organisation for local economies – developing progressive economics for people and place.

CLES is a think and do tank and is part of a global network of ‘thinkers and doers’ who are articulating and progressing a new, socially just mainstream in economics and social policy.

One of the key activities of CLES is to influence policy and change behaviour in local government and other organisations across the UK and beyond. CLES aims to progress economic interventions and ideas which bring maximum benefit to people and places, within the limits of the environment.

The core activities include independent action research, evaluation and performance management, policy briefings, best practice advice and strategy development. Alongside project work, CLES produces publications, training and events, which are available to everyone.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

- Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited Annual Report 2019
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KEY DECISION: NO

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**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

CLES have reported that the first half of the year was promising; however, Covid-19 has significantly impacted the second half of the year. Covid-19 had a major impact on clients ability to engage with CLES between March & July 2020, and as a result in June 2020 CLES updated their Business Development & Operations Plan covering the period 2018-2021,

setting out the organisational response to Covid-19 and setting revised objectives for the remainder of the plan period.

Direct efforts were made towards policy publications and the Centre of Excellence to raise the profile of CLES and the Community Wealth Building movement nationally and internationally, including:

- Deepening relationships in places in England where we are working, with Community Wealth Building diagnostics leading to further work, deepening networks and experience of place, with a development of work in Liverpool City Region, North East England;
- Significant development of relationships with the Scottish and Welsh national governments, leading to our chief executive seconded to the Scottish government for 2 days a week in 2020-21;
- Expanding the reach of CLES with dedicated work generated across the UK and beyond, with speaking engagements and work in Barcelona, Gdansk, Nova Scotia, Australia, New Zealand.

Of specific note in relation to performance of the Centre includes:

- 39 specific pieces of work and activity with resultant reports and other outputs;
- Secured grant funding from the Barrow Cadbury Trust and core funding from the Friends Provident Foundation;
- 21 specific reports, free to view on website and disseminated to members, network and the public;
- 11 blogs and articles published on our website and social media channels;
- Over 100 lectures/presentations/workshops;
- 6 specific training events;
- Ongoing Charing, Board and steering Group membership.

## **PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH SALFORD CITY COUNCIL**

Salford City Council are founding members of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES). Since 1986, the City Council have received a range of policy publications and access to events; together with bespoke advisory and research activity. CLES has also historically been commissioned by the City Council to undertake wider research and consultancy work, most notably in recent times around procurement spend.

The City Mayor and Councillor Roger Jones (substitute) are currently appointed as the City Council's representatives.

### **Activities in 2020**

The proposed work structure agreed in January 2020 with the City Council was disrupted by Covid-19, with council resources being reassigned and several CLES staff being furloughed. Despite this CLES has fully participated in the Salford Inclusive Economy work which remains ongoing.

In addition to the above membership and wider commissioned activities, CLES have been involved in wider activities relating to Salford, as follows:

- continued development of the Greater Manchester Social Value Network as a part of its Steering Group;
- CLES has worked with Salford CVS and Salford CCG on evaluating the effectiveness of their grants programme.

## Activities in 2020/21

CLES has committed to work with Salford in the following areas throughout 2020/21:

- Review of spend analysis;
- Anchor institution approach workshop on what are the strategies of community wealth building;
- Power of Procurement workshop as an introduction to progressive procurement as a key tool within local economic development;
- Strategic advice on furthering community wealth building across anchor institutions in Salford.

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KEY COUNCIL POLICIES: Council Constitution

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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND IMPLICATIONS: not applicable

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ASSESSMENT OF RISK: not applicable

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LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: not applicable

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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: not applicable

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PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS: not applicable

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HR IMPLICATIONS Supplied by: not applicable

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OTHER DIRECTORATES CONSULTED: not applicable

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WARDS TO WHICH REPORT RELATES: All Wards