

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Safer and Stronger Communities)

Date: 14th November 2011

Subject: Third Sector Review - Update

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The terms of reference for the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board this year makes reference to the Board reviewing the relationship and respective roles of the city council and third sector organisations in mitigating the negative effects of the recession on the communities they serve.
2. In July 2011, the Board learned that a review of the third sector was already underway on behalf of the Strategic Planning and Policy Board. This review aims to address issues around infrastructure, procurement and commissioning, as well as engagement and capacity building with the third sector. In view of this, the Board agreed to feed into this existing review where appropriate and to keep a watching brief of its progress.
3. The attached report from the Assistant Chief Executive Planning Policy and Improvement provides an update on the Council review of third sector relationships and seeks the views of the Scrutiny Board on some of the emerging issues.
4. Separate to this review, the Director of Resources is also engaging with the third sector, via the Third Sector Partnership, to enable them to have a better understanding of the Council's financial outlook and spending priorities for 2012/13 and beyond. This will also provide an opportunity to identify what the impact might be on the third sector and the communities they serve and for the third sector to feed into the budget setting process for 2012/13.

5. As part of the Council's budget setting process for 2011/12, £147k was identified to establish a Transition Fund to support third sector organisations that have had reductions in funding. This fund aims to help organisations delivering high quality public services to become more resilient, agile and able to take up opportunities presented by a changing funding environment. Grants of up to £10,000 were available to organisations to assess and re-align their services, to prepare for new commissioning opportunities and to facilitate partnership working potentially leading to, for example, closer collaboration and mergers.
6. The fund was administered by Leeds Community Foundation, with input from Council Officers. An evaluation report for the Transition Fund will be produced post-March 2012 highlighting the outcomes, successes and learning points for the organisations supported.

Recommendations

7. Members are asked to:
 - (a) Note the content of this report and the attached report from the Assistant Chief Executive Planning Policy and Improvement.
 - (b) Provide comment and views on the emerging issues arising from the Council review of the third sector relationships.

Background documents

8. None used