



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (City and Regional Partnerships)

Date: 25th September 2008

Subject: Inquiry on Voluntary Community and Faith Sector – Session 1

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

- Equality and Diversity
- Community Cohesion
- Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Board at its last meeting approved the attached terms of reference for an inquiry on the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector.
- 1.2 This particular inquiry involves a number of departments and partners but principally the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods is taking the lead role on this issue.

2.0 Session 1 of the Board's Inquiry

- 2.1 The purpose of this session is to hear evidence about:
- current and emerging consultation obligations;
 - the arrangements in place within the Council for community engagement at strategic, service and area level; and
 - the strengths and weaknesses of the current approaches and opportunities and barriers to improve practice.
- 2.2 The attached report of the Director Environment and Neighbourhoods addresses these Issues.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to;
- (i) Receive the report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods.
 - (ii) Consider what, if any, further information or points of clarification the Board requires to conclude Session 1 of its inquiry.
 - (iii) Discuss any subsequent issues.
 - (iv) Identify for session 2 of the Board's Inquiry on 23rd October the witnesses it would like to hear evidence from.

Background Papers

Board's terms of Reference,

Government's Empowerment White Paper 'Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power'

Leeds Strategic Plan

Council Community Engagement policy

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

Equality Standard for Local Government

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act

Vision for Leeds

Every Child Matters and the Children Act 2004