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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Scrutiny Board (City and Regional Partnerships)

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008

Subject: Inquiry into the Role of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) in Council Led Engagement – Session 2

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#### Electoral Wards Affected: All



Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Board at its meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> September completed Session 1 of its inquiry into the role of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) in Council led community engagement and a copy of the terms of reference approved by the Board is attached.
- 1.2 Members are reminded that whilst this inquiry involves a number of departments and partners, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods is taking the lead role on this issue.

## 2.0 Session 2 of the Board's Inquiry

- 2.1 At today's session Members will hear a VCFS perspective using case studies on:
- The opportunities and barriers to participation with the Council and others.
  - Evidence from the VCFS and others about the capacity and infrastructure for engagement within the VCFS.
- 2.2 Representatives from VCFS have been invited to attend today's meeting including the Director of Leeds Voice to discuss these issues with Members of the Board.

## 3.0 Useful Links

- 3.1 The VCFS have provided a list of useful links for Members reference:-

a) The Ripple Effect: The Economic Contribution of the VCFS in Leeds

[http://www.leedsvoice.org.uk/ResearchRpt\\_Smfile.pdf](http://www.leedsvoice.org.uk/ResearchRpt_Smfile.pdf)

This provides an overview of the scale and value of VCFS activity in Leeds.

b) A Strategic Review of Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Representation

<http://www.leedsvoice.org.uk/Current%20Issues/StrategicRepresentationReview.pdf>

This provides an overview of the representation of VCFS within the City's key partnership and strategy groups where VCFS organisations have the opportunity to influence decision-making, policy and strategy development.

c) The Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Approach to Reducing Worklessness

[http://www.leedsvoice.org.uk/NtG\\_VCFS\\_WorklessnessReport\\_23jul08.pdf](http://www.leedsvoice.org.uk/NtG_VCFS_WorklessnessReport_23jul08.pdf)

This provides an overview of the thematic delivery undertaken by the VCFS.

d) Smoothie Bar business plan

[http://www.leedsvoice.org.uk/Downloads/Oct08/UrbanBar\\_BusinessPlan08.doc](http://www.leedsvoice.org.uk/Downloads/Oct08/UrbanBar_BusinessPlan08.doc)

This provides background information on St Luke's Cares and their work to support young people establish a Smoothie Bar in their neighbourhood.

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

4.1 Members are asked to;

- (i) Hear and ask questions of the witnesses attending the meeting today.
- (ii) Consider what, if any, further information or points of clarification the Board requires to conclude Session 2 of its inquiry.
- (iii) Discuss any subsequent issues.

#### **Background Papers**

None Used