

# REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	18 March 2010
<b>Subject:</b>	Third Sector Strategy
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Brendon Hills, Corporate Director Community and Environment
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Jean Lammiman, Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Decision subject to Call-in:</b>	Yes
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix 1: Third Sector strategy Appendix 2: Consultation feedback

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report sets out the background to the development of the Third Sector Strategy.

### **Recommendations:**

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Consider and comment on the consultation response.
2. Approve the strategy for implementation.

### **Reason: (For recommendation)**

The Third Sector Strategy sets out a framework for improved engagement with the Third Sector that responds to recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny committee report 'Delivering a strengthened voluntary sector' and supports the delivery of two corporate priorities; (1) Building strong communities (2) Improve support to vulnerable people.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introductory paragraph**

The Cabinet considered the Third Sector Strategy at its meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009 and approved it for consultation. Extensive consultation has taken place which is reported here together with a revised strategy for Cabinet's consideration.

### **Options considered**

The council has undertaken an extensive consultation exercise (see Appendix 2) to gain feedback from the Third Sector. The results of this consultation have been generally positive. In general the Third Sector welcomes this strategy as a positive way forward for developing the relationship between the sectors.

The council considered the options of developing either a council-only or partnership strategy and opted to develop a strategy that focused on actions that could be delivered by the council in the first instance. It is hoped that partner agencies will adopt the principles set out in the strategy in the future.

A plan for developing the Third Sector itself needs to come from that sector, with support from the Council, and this could be the third stage of the project.

### **Background**

The strategy has been developed with input from representatives from the VCS through their involvement in a project working group. The strategy has been co-sponsored by Julia Smith, Chief Executive of HAVS (Harrow Association of Voluntary Service) and Brendon Hills, Corporate Director Community and Environment.

The Council's cabinet committee approved the draft for consultation at their meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009. This report presents the results of the consultation and an amended strategy, adjusted to take account of the responses received, for approval.

### **Implications of the Recommendation**

#### **Staffing/workforce**

There are no staffing or workforce implications associated with this strategy, but the service plan for Community Development will be adapted to deliver this substantial body of work.

#### **Equalities impact**

The Third Sector strategy will have a positive impact on equalities within the local area.

## **Legal comments**

There are no legal implications associated with this recommendation.

## **Community safety**

The activities of some Third Sector organisations contribute to the delivery of community safety. Strengthening the role of the Third Sector will have a positive impact on community safety.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this recommendation. The delivery of the Third Sector Strategy will be contained within existing budgets through the realignment of existing resources.

A number of items listed in the action plan are shown as 'to be costed' in these instances resources will be secured either through realignment of existing resources or through external fundraising eg. by making applications to charitable trusts, funding bodies etc.

The setting up of a new Equalities organisation will be funded through the Grants budget. A proposal for this has been submitted to the Grants Advisory Panel for consideration at their meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010.

The funding of the Funding Officer post based at HAVS has been identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2010-11.

## **Performance Issues**

1. The Third Sector Strategy contributes to the delivery of two of the council's corporate priorities (1) improve support for vulnerable people (2) build strong communities.
2. Delivery of the Third Sector strategy will impact most directly on performance of the following national indicator:

NI 7 – Environment for a thriving third sector. Performance against this indicator is measured through a biennial, national third sector survey. Our current performance is 10.4% of local organisations report satisfaction with the support they receive from local public sector organisations. The target for 2010 is 14.4%.

Delivery of the strategy also has the potential to impact on other indicators such as:

NI 1 – percentage of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area. Current performance as measured by the Place survey is 76.2%. The target for 2011 is 79.8%

NI 6 – Participation in regular volunteering. Current performance as measured by the Place Survey is 24%. The target for 2011 is 27.7%.

The delivery of the Third Sector Strategy should have a positive impact on our CAA assessment as it demonstrates close partnership working with the Third Sector to deliver positive outcomes for residents.

Regular monitoring of progress will be undertaken by the NI7 working group (a group made up of council officers and voluntary sector representatives) who will report to the Community Cohesion Management Group. An annual review of the strategy will also be undertaken.

## Environmental Impact

Does the proposal comply with all relevant environmental legislation? Yes

The Third Sector Strategy aims to facilitate increased procurement of services through local third sector organisations thereby stimulating the local economy, supporting sustainability of local groups and potential development of fair trade opportunities and social enterprise.

## Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes

Separate risk register in place? No

## Corporate Priorities

The recommendation supports the delivery of the following corporate priorities:

- Improve support for vulnerable people by strengthening the role of Third Sector organisations delivering public services many of which provide support to vulnerable people.
- Build strong communities by supporting the development and sustainability of a vibrant Third Sector.

## Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Kanta Hirani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 17 February 2010		
Name: George Curran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 17 February 2010		

## Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name: Anu Singh



on behalf of the  
Divisional Director  
Partnership,  
Development and  
Performance

Date: 18 February 2010

## Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

Name: John Edwards



Divisional Director  
(Environmental  
Services)

Date: 17 February 2010

## Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

**Contact:** Kashmir Takhar, Head of Community Development, 020 8420 9331

### Background Papers:

Appendix 1: Third Sector Strategy

Appendix 2: Consultation feedback

Report to Cabinet 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009

**Call-In Waived by the  
Chairman of Overview  
and Scrutiny  
Committee**

**NOT APPLICABLE\***

*(for completion by Democratic  
Services staff only)*

*\* Delete as appropriate*