



## Overview & Scrutiny Committee 30<sup>th</sup> May 2007

### Report from the Director of Policy & Regeneration

Action

Wards:  
ALL

## Voluntary Sector Funding Task

### 1.0 Summary

- 1.1 To present the final report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee task group on Voluntary Sector Funding.

### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee agree the recommendations of the Voluntary Sector Funding task group.
- 2.2 That the report is forwarded to the Executive.

### 3.0 Detail

- 3.1 At its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to set up a task group to investigate Voluntary Sector Funding, particularly in relation to Main Programme Grant funding.
- 3.2 The task group has met on 7 occasions, including attendance at the Voluntary Sector Liaison Forum and the BME Forum. In order to complete its work and produce a set of recommendations that deliver benefits to local communities, the task group decided early in the review that it was important to hear the views of as many members of the voluntary sector as possible. The task group focused on Brent specific issues while taking into account the national agenda and learning from other local authorities.
- 3.3 The evidence the task group received highlighted that there is a great deal of consensus between the members of the voluntary sector we talked to and council officers as to what the main issues are. The overriding concern we identified is that of how to reinvigorate relationships and improve levels of trust

between the council and the voluntary sector. It is the responsibility of both the council and the voluntary sector to work towards an improved partnership, but by instigating change the council can take the lead in this process. This concern was paramount in our thoughts when coming to our conclusions.

3.4 Our finding and recommendations focused on the following areas:

- ***Co-ordinating the Council's Approach***
- ***Establishing Funding Priorities***
- ***Length of funding period***
- ***Application, Assessment and Monitoring***
- ***Capacity Building and the Voluntary Sector Team***

These are set out on page 5 of the report

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 None.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 None.

#### **6.0 Diversity Implications**

6.1 None.

#### **7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

7.1 None.

### **Background Papers**

#### **Contact Officers**

Phil Newby Director of Policy & Regeneration  
[Phil.newby@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Phil.newby@brent.gov.uk)

Jacqueline Casson  
[Jacqueline.casson@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.casson@brent.gov.uk)