

Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Strategy 2011 – 2015

Consultation Methodology

The consultation process took place over 12 weeks, as recommended in the Compact, between 15th December 2010 and 13th March 2011. It included an online questionnaire which received 55 responses and a series of consultation events and other meetings (see table below), where the Grant Aid Strategy was discussed. In addition, the Voluntary Sector Team coordinating the consultation process received other individual responses which are included in this report. A response rate analysis for the online questionnaire is not available as it was not possible to count the number of people logging onto the consultation page on the web site. However, 59 organisations were represented at the consultation event, indicating that the majority of funded organisations did get involved in the consultation process.

Paper and emailed questionnaire responses were added to the online survey to provide a consistent approach to the questionnaire analysis.

Publicity on how to attend the consultation events and to access the consultation questionnaire was circulated to all funded organisations through directorates, approx 90 organisations, 850 other organisations through Community Action Derby, 2000 organisations, individuals and partners through Derby City Partnership and to the general public through media articles and the Council's website. Information was also circulated to members of the Council's Diversity Forums.

Early feedback from the survey and from earlier meetings was used in subsequent meetings to form a more in depth discussions. In addition, discussions were held relating to current provision, equalities issues and gaps in services. The consultation feedback has been used to develop the strategy further and to inform commissioning intentions for voluntary sector grant aid.

Date	Description	Venue	Attendance	Response included in report
11/11/2010	Pre-strategy information meeting with Compact Forum Briefing on budget situation, the possibility of cuts in funding and how to involve the voluntary sector	Council House	Compact Forum representatives from the Voluntary Sector, MNS Derby City and Derby City Council	General comments, not specifically included
19/11/2010	Pre-strategy information meeting Briefing on budget situation, the possibility of cuts in funding and how to	Oddfellows Hall	Strategic Director of Adults, Health & Housing, Derby City Council and NHS Derby City funding officers, voluntary sector provider representatives	General comments, not specifically included

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	involve the voluntary sector			
12/01/2011	Black and Minority Ethnic (BaME) Forum Briefing on Strategy and consultation process.	Derby Racial Equality Council	7 representatives of BME community groups, Community Action, and City Council VCS Partnership Manager	General comments, not specifically included
18/01/2011	Compact Forum Briefing on Strategy , consultation process and discussion of issues from Sector.	Community Action Derby	6 representatives on behalf of wider voluntary sector and grant officers from City Council, City PCT and DCP,	Feedback from the day is included in this report
26/01/2011	Combined Diversity Forum City Council Budget and Strategy consultation event	The Spot	150 representatives from diversity forums, minority communities and gender and sexual orientation representatives.	General comments, not specifically included
08/02/2011	Black and Minority Ethnic (BaME) Forum Briefing on Strategy and consultation process.	Heritage Hotel	14 representatives of BME community groups, Community Action, and City Voluntary Sector Team Members	General comments, not specifically included
16/02/2011	Provider Forum Briefing on Strategy and consultation process service developments	St James Centre	Community Action hosted event with 19 voluntary sector provider representatives and Officers of the Council	General comments, not specifically included
24/02/2011	Funders Meeting	Middleton House	Officers from Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council that lead on joint funded projects in the Voluntary Sector	Agreeing a shared approach to the Grant Aid Strategy
28/02/2011	Two consultation events involving discussion of the strategy, the services that could be commissioned and gaps in services	YMCA, London Road, Derby	109 representatives of local groups, service users, members of the public and officers who commission services for the Council	Feedback from the day is included in this report
02/03/2011	Infrastructure Meeting Discussion of issues from Sector and service developments.	Community Action Derby	Representatives from Community Action, Business in the Community, Community Accountancy, Derby Racial Equality and City Council	General comments, not specifically included
09/03/2011	Compact Forum Discussion of issues from Sector on the Strategy.	Community Action Derby	2 Members, 6 representatives (including Community Action representatives) on behalf of wider voluntary sector and	Feedback from the day is included in this report

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			Service Director for Personalisation, grant officers from City Council, City PCT and DCP,	
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In addition, the Grant Officers from the Council have discussed the implications of the strategy with individual organisations that are currently in receipt of support from the Council.

The consultation methodology was robust and the Council afforded lots of opportunity and time for people to make their views known. At the consultation event, support was available to people who needed assistance to get their opinions across to Officers. These were all captured on the day at the events.

The events were publicised through the Council's networks and forums and via Neighbourhood Forums and their newsletters. In addition, Officers ensured that all diversity groups were represented, that smaller providers were encouraged to participate and that those who were not able to attend were given ample opportunity to express their views.

The consultation on the whole, has been thorough and fair and has provided voluntary and community sector organisations in Derby, with the opportunity to express their views, regardless of their size. Small community groups as well as the larger organisations were present at the consultation events, which also gave organisations the opportunity to network and discuss like minded projects. Furthermore, voluntary and community sector groups who have fed into this consultation, have been assured that a fair view of their opinions would be reported to Council Cabinet.